

## UAP, VP Candidates Set for Wed. Debate

By Basler Aziz

The race is on, and not surprisingly the race for Undergraduate Association President has a lot to do with rush.

Candidates, however, are thinking about a number of other issues, from the Coffeehouse to SafeRide, and began the process of distinguishing themselves this week.

Presidential candidates Parul Deora '04, David B. Gottlieb '04, and Pius A. Uzamere II '04 will elaborate on their plans at the annual UA Debate tomorrow at 8 p.m. in the Student Center Lobby.

### Housing dominates list of issues

Rush and housing are pivotal issues in this year's election, and the candidates all said that the solution to the surfacing problems is campus

unity.

"I really want for everyone in the community to get involved," said Gottlieb, who is running with vice presidential candidate Karen Keller '04. "Everyone in dorms, everyone in the FSILG community ... all 4,000 of us should submit a proposal."

Deora, the current UA vice president, expressed similar sentiments. "There's a problem within their own cultures ... we need a campus coalition, a group focused on integrating culture but maintaining unity," said Deora, who is running with VP candidate Harel H. Williams '05, chair of the UA Committee of Student Life.

Uzamere, who is running with Jacob W. Faber '04, said that dorm rush needs to be saved.

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Jackie Harris and Colin Mochrie eye the crowd, "Charlie's Angels"-style, in Sunday's performance in Kresge Auditorium. Story and photos, page 8.

## Class of 2005 Brass Rat Features Rush Tombstone, Traditional Seal

By Jay Cameron

Laughter and applause greeted the 2005 Brass Rat as more than 700 members of the class of 2005 gathered in Walker Memorial last Saturday for their Ring Premiere.

The latest Rat featured traditional features, traditional humor, and some new ideas.

The class shank features the prominent Great Dome, below which sits a cracked tombstone reading "Rush."

Below the school initials on the seal shank lies the original two-man MIT Seal. Below this seal are an Erlenmeyer flask and a hip flask; the 2005 Brass Rat pamphlet says that the Erlenmeyer flask represents chemistry-related work and reads "tool," while the hip flask represents alcohol-related play and reads "punt."

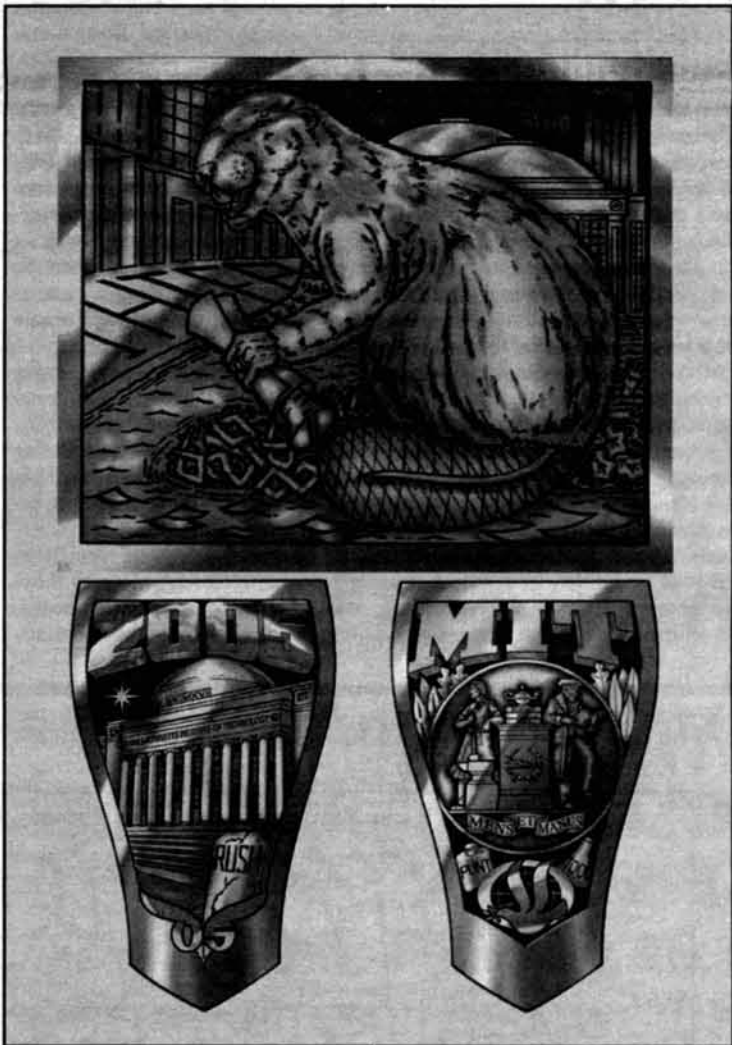
During the presentation, a few members of the audience booed as a dove, representing peace around the world, was revealed below "punt" and "tool."

The "Rush" tombstone on this year's ring generated an emotional round of applause throughout the audience. The tombstone represents the old rush system, which ended after the Class of 2005's rush and orientation.

The tombstone was inspired by the "rush" tombstone hack during the Class of 2005 Killian Kickoff, said Ring Committee chair Rohit Gupta '05, adding that he felt this part of the Brass Rat was especially relevant to the class of 2005.

Speaking of the ring in general, Nao Gamo '05 said, "It's really personalized for our class."

Other features of the ring include the Boston and Cambridge skylines, a map of MIT engraved on the inside of the ring, and the Institute



The 2005 Brass Rat design. Pictured are the ring bezel (top), the class shank (left), and the seal shank (right).

mascot, now a more muscular beaver on the ring's bezel, representing a campus health consciousness.

### Little controversy on MIT seal

In recent years, students have

debated the gender balance of the seal shank on one side of the Brass Rat, which this year features the official MIT seal. This year the

Ring, Page 14

## New Guidelines Outline Response to Visa Delays

By Beckett W. Stemer

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Anticipating the potential consequences of a more stringent government visa policy for international students, a group of deans at MIT has completed a set of guidelines for how faculty should deal with international graduate students stuck outside the country due to delayed visas.

The guidelines attempt to work within the current procedures at MIT for short-term absences, Dean for Graduate Students Isaac M. Colbert said, but they leave the final decision to a case by case analysis. Long delays could mean a student loses a teaching assistantship or has matriculation postponed until the following year.

The guidelines distinguish between students delayed less than 60 days and those delayed for

longer periods.

"Faculty are very generous on the whole with their students," Colbert said, and "this policy gives them the maximum flexibility to use their resources" to help students unable to return to classwork on time.

He said that of the 2,800 international graduate and undergraduate students at MIT, only about 100 have seen delays so far because of slow visa approval. "We want departments to have guidelines in advance" of a problem, he said, and the intent is to "anticipate problems."

### Reasons for visa delays unspecified

Currently, the specific reasons a visa approval could be held up are unclear. "A visa delay of days

Delays, Page 18

## First Encounter with MIT's Culture Proves Rewarding

By Allison Naaktgeboren

Massachusetts Institute of Technology: the dream school of every techie, tinkerer, and nerd from New York City to San Francisco and then some. Its reputation

is formidable and the prospect of being a lowly prefrash at such a school is just a tad bit intimidating — yet we come anyway.

MIT's fame in academia is renown, and has spawned rumors and myths. Prefrash are no doubt curious to see if any of them are

true. Well, MIT didn't turn out to be what it's cracked up to be; it's a great deal more than that.

My first introduction to MIT proper was Lobby 7, or rather the people in Lobby 7. New York City claims to be the place where one can see every and any type of people, but I saw more variety in dress and ethnicity in twenty minutes in Lobby 7 than I ever have in New York City.

There also seemed to be a greater diversity of nationality. Before ten hours had elapsed, I had eaten dinner with a French student and watched *Friends* with an Eng-

Notebook, Page 18



*The Vagina Monologues*  
deliver a  
powerful  
message.

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Comics

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NEWS

The Cambridge City Council is considering a new payroll tax that could affect MIT.

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# WORLD & NATION

## Majority Believes U.S. Should Gain U.N. Support Before Starting War

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

A majority of Americans believe the United States should work to gain the support of the U.N. Security Council even if it means delaying war with Iraq, according to a Washington Post-ABC News poll.

The survey found that 56 percent of the public is willing to wait in order to win U.N. endorsement of U.S.-led military strikes against Iraq. Another 39 percent said the United States should "move quickly," even without the Security Council's backing.

Overall support for taking military action against Iraq stands at 63 percent, down slightly from 66 percent in a Post-ABC poll conducted two weeks ago. Half the country continues to believe the United States should move against Hussein even over the objections of the United Nations, unchanged from earlier this month. A majority — 57 percent — would favor taking action without the approval of the United Nations if this country had the support of key allies such as Britain, Australia and Italy.

President Bush's overall job approval rating, which rose after his State of the Union address last month, has returned to its pre-speech level. Currently, 60 percent favorably view Bush's performance as president, down from 64 percent in a Post-ABC poll conducted two weeks ago.

Approval of Bush's handling of the Iraq situation has dropped six points, to 55 percent, since early February.

While criticism mounts for the president's handling of Iraq, there is even more skepticism of the United Nations. Fifty-six percent of those interviewed said they disapproved of the way it was dealing with Iraq and Hussein, while 38 percent said they approved.

A total of 1,024 randomly selected adults were interviewed Feb. 19-23 for this national telephone survey. Margin of sampling error for the overall results is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

## Report on Children's Exposure To Pollutants Mixed

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The exposure of American children to several harmful pollutants is declining, but asthma rates among children are increasing, the Environmental Protection Agency said Monday. It said there is a "growing concern" about exposure to mercury by women of child-bearing age that could lead to adverse health consequences for any children they bear.

In its report, "America's Children and the Environment," the EPA said minority children and children from low-income families suffer a disproportionate share of diseases linked to the environment.

The report's findings on mercury exposure are likely to among the most closely scrutinized because of an ongoing debate in Congress over how best to curb air pollution. The report said the nation's main source of mercury emissions is the burning of coal, mostly at electric power plants. President Bush has proposed legislation that would require a 50 percent reduction in those emissions by 2010, and a 70 percent reduction by 2018. Some environmental groups consider that pace too slow, while some industry groups consider it too ambitious.

According to the report, about 8 percent of U.S. women of child-bearing age — ages 16 to 49 — have at least 5.8 parts per billion of mercury in their blood, the level at which EPA says there is an increased risk of adverse health effects to children in the womb. Slightly more than half of U.S. women have mercury levels of zero to 1 part per billion in the blood, the report said.

Ramona Trovato, EPA's deputy assistant administrator for environmental information, called the finding a "snapshot" because the agency has not previously reported mercury levels in women of child-bearing age.

"We don't have trends," she said. "We don't know if this is going up or down, but we plan to report on that."

## United States, Britain, Spain Present New Iraq Resolution

By Colum Lynch

THE WASHINGTON POST

UNITED NATIONS

The United States, Britain and Spain introduced a new draft Security Council resolution Monday declaring that Iraq has squandered its "final opportunity" to voluntarily disarm and laying the political and legal groundwork for a U.S.-led military invasion.

The introduction of the resolution, which recalls that the 15-nation council warned Iraq in November that it would face "serious consequences" if it did not scrap its banned weapons programs, marked the beginning of what U.S. and British officials characterized as the final push to win council backing for a decision to go to war.

French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, who have been leading the opposition, responded with a diplomatic counteroffensive. Meeting in Berlin, they announced a new initiative that would ensure the continuation of U.N. weapons inspections in Iraq

at least through the middle of the summer. Russian President Vladimir Putin endorsed the proposal.

Turkey's cabinet, meanwhile, agreed to host tens of thousands of American troops who probably would lead a ground invasion through northern Iraq.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer welcomed the decision but said, "There are still some 'i's to be dotted and 't's to be crossed" before the deal is finalized and endorsed by the Turkish parliament.

President Bush expressed growing impatience with diplomacy, as British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the draft resolution introduced Monday would provide Iraq with a window of about "two weeks or so" to disarm or face a war.

"The Iraqi regime is not disarming as required by last fall's unanimous vote of the Security Council," Bush told the National Governors Association in Washington. "Saddam Hussein's refusal to comply with the demands of the civilized world is a threat to peace, and it's a

threat to stability."

Bush said the United States would work closely with the council's members "in the days ahead" to ensure that the United Nations' demands that Iraq end its weapons programs are enforced. He said the council's reaction would be a test of whether the international body will remain "relevant as the world confronts the threats to the 21st century."

"We certainly hope that it does," Bush said. "But one way or the other, Saddam Hussein, for the sake of peace and for the security of the American people, will be disarmed."

Underscoring the seriousness of the American military threat, Air Force B-52 bombers began conducting training missions in the northern end of the Persian Gulf, not far from Iraq. "The missions will be conducted on a recurring basis and are designed to maintain air crew proficiency and familiarization," according to the U.S. Central Command, which would oversee a war against Iraq.

## Powell Discusses North Korea Situation with Chinese Leaders

By John Pomfret

THE WASHINGTON POST

BEIJING

Secretary of State Colin L. Powell failed to reach agreement with the Chinese government Monday on a response to North Korea's nuclear weapons program and made no headway toward stronger support from China for the U.S. position on Iraq.

After meeting with Chinese leaders, Powell said at a news conference that the countries differ on the best way to deal with North Korea. Official Chinese media said Vice President Hu Jintao, recently appointed leader of the Chinese Communist Party, told Powell that Beijing favors direct talks between the United States and North Korea to resolve the nuclear crisis — a path Washington has resisted in favor of a multilateral approach. At his news conference, Powell countered that such an issue "cannot sim-

ply be treated as a bilateral matter between the United States and North Korea."

Powell implied, however, that China was working through private channels to deal with the North Korean government. He said Beijing was eager to play a positive role in helping to resolve the crisis.

The secretary of state was in Beijing en route to Seoul, where he was to attend the inauguration of Roh Moo Hyun as South Korea's new president.

U.S. officials have been complaining for weeks that China is not doing enough to solve the emerging nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula. But China's unease at the U.S. pressure generally has been overlooked.

Chinese sources contend that China's interests are close to those of the United States — with one difference. While some Bush adminis-

tration officials see a potential collapse of the government of Kim Jong Il as good for the region, Chinese officials view this possibility with alarm.

"We are not going to read the riot act to Kim Jong Il or engage in economic sanctions, because if his regime collapses all of Northeast Asia will face instability," a Chinese diplomat said. Among China's fears are millions of refugees flowing into Manchuria, the loss of a buffer state between China and South Korea, where 37,000 U.S. soldiers are deployed, and the disappearance of South Korean investment in northern China.

Powell also held meetings in Beijing with Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan and President Jiang Zemin. On the issue of Iraq, official Chinese media said the government reiterated its position that U.N. inspections be allowed to continue.

## WEATHER

### Cold. Again.

By Samantha Hess

Although the weekend was a washout, temperatures were above freezing most of the time, allowing people and snow piles alike a welcome chance to thaw out. However, our brief fling with spring is now over as, once again, we are looking at the prospect of many days of sub-freezing temperatures and slick sidewalks.

A statistically normal winter would have resulted in 32.3 inches of snowfall in Boston to this point. This is not a normal winter; we have been slammed with 60.5 inches, nearly double the normal value. This season-to-date total may increase again soon as a storm will affect us on Thursday and Friday. Snow is expected, and although it is too early to predict accumulation amounts, the National Weather Service is saying it will be "pretty good sized."

Most of the country is also dealing with winter weather. Southern California is getting drenched, while the nearby higher elevations are seeing snow. Around Dallas-Ft. Worth, Texas, dangerous freezing drizzle is expected, and sleet may fall in many Southern states. The Midwest is simply freezing. The best bet for warm sunshine is southern Florida. Orbitz has pretty good deals for this weekend...

### Extended Forecast

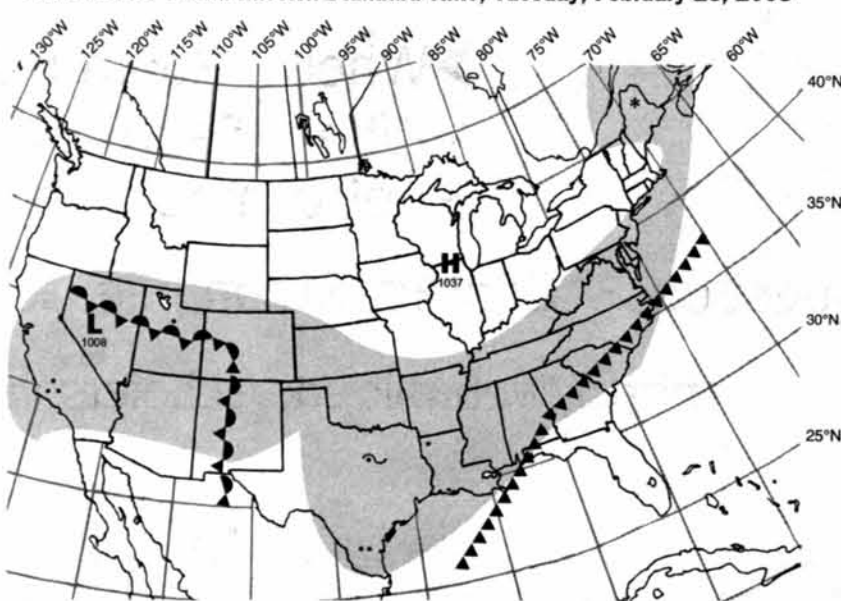
**Today:** Chilly but mostly clear. High 27°F (−3°C).

**Tonight:** Clear and extremely cold. Low 4°F (−16°C).

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny and continued cold. High 26°F (−3°C), low 12°F (−11°C).

**Thursday:** Cloudy. Snow possible late, though not as cold at night. High 29°F (−2°C), low 21°F (−6°C).

Situation for 7 a.m. Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, February 25, 2003



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	— Trough	Snow	Fog
L Low Pressure	— Warm Front	Light	Thunderstorm
Light Freezing Rain	— Cold Front	Moderate	Haze
	— Stationary Front	Heavy	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech



# AIDS Drug Found Ineffective; Study Inconclusive for Blacks

By David Brown  
and Rick Weiss  
THE WASHINGTON POST

The maker of the first AIDS vaccine to be widely tested in humans said it would continue working for market approval of its product despite disappointing results announced Monday from its large international clinical experiment.

In a population that included people from many racial and ethnic backgrounds, AIDSVAX was ineffective in preventing infection by human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). There were hints, however, that it might be effective in black patients — a scientifically puzzling and socially provocative finding that several experts characterized as dubi-

ous but company officials described as promising.

"We clearly will move toward licensure (of the vaccine). The question is whether we do it with this study or with other ones," said Donald Francis, president of VaxGen, the California biotech company that conducted the study, using about 5,400 high-risk volunteers in the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada and the Netherlands.

It was unclear, however, on what grounds the vaccine might be approved in the foreseeable future. The vaccine offered no discernible protection to Caucasians or Hispanics, and the surprise findings that the vaccine was nearly 80 percent effective among black patients — and

nearly 70 percent effective among black, Asian and mixed-race patients combined — were based on a subset of the total study population that was far smaller than customary for gaining approval by the Food and Drug Administration.

In all, there were about 500 non-whites in the study. Over the course of three years, 9.9 percent of those non-whites who received placebo (or inactive) injections became infected with HIV, compared to 3.7 percent who were given the active vaccine.

Anthony Fauci, chief of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said that little could be inferred about the drug's effects for blacks since only a small number participated in the study.

# French, German Leaders Present Weapons Inspections Plan to U.N.

By Peter Finn  
THE WASHINGTON POST

BERLIN

The leaders of France and Germany said Monday night that they see no need for the draft U.N. resolution on Iraq put forward by the United States and Britain Monday and instead offered a plan to strengthen the weapons inspection process by laying down specific benchmarks that Baghdad must meet.

French President Jacques Chirac said that establishing exact deadlines for Iraqi compliance would be the job of the inspectors. But his proposal would extend the process for at least another four months. That could rule out military action

for even longer because of the difficulty of fighting in summer desert heat.

"We want Iraq to disarm because it represents a danger for the region and maybe the world. But we believe this disarmament must happen peacefully," said Chirac, after having dinner with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder at a restaurant in central Berlin named Final Appeal. "We see nothing in the current situation that justifies a new resolution. I'm of the opinion that a majority in the Security Council is also not for a new resolution."

"Germany's position is exactly the same," said Schroeder, who left most of the talking Monday night to Chirac.

Under the French-drafted plan, which was presented to the U.N. Security Council Monday in the form of an informal memorandum, Iraq would face a "rigorous timeline" on each of its suspected nuclear, chemical and biological programs to comply with U.N. demands that it disarm or prove that it already has. "There is no deadline," Chirac said of his government's proposal. "Only the inspectors themselves can say when such a deadline is set and how."

Under the proposal, which Chirac said also had Russian support, weapons inspectors would provide updates on their work every three weeks with the first major progress report due in 120 days.

# Earthquake Kills at Least 257 In Western China

THE WASHINGTON POST

BEIJING

A deadly earthquake gutted schools and houses along China's border with Central Asia Monday, leaving at least 257 dead and thousands injured and homeless, state-controlled media and witnesses said.

Farmhouses and schools collapsed and dormitories crumbled when the temblor, which registered 6.8 on the Richter scale, hit the western part of Xinjiang province, near China's mountainous border with Kyrgyzstan, on Monday morning.

In one village in Bachu County, more than 1,000 buildings and houses collapsed, according to the state-run New China News Agency. Tens of thousands of people were left homeless and were preparing to spend the night outside in wintry chill, witnesses said.

# Two Panelists Challenge Report on Title IX

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Two of the three female athletes on a government commission that reviewed Title IX, the landmark law that bans sex discrimination in school sports programs, are disappointed with the panel's final recommendations and will send a minority report to Education Secretary Roderick Paige, one said Monday.

Julie Foudy, captain of the U.S. national women's soccer team, said she and Olympic swimming gold medalist Donna de Varona believe the report does not present a balanced view of the issues involving the 31-year-old law.

The report "does not acknowledge the very important issues on the women's side," said Foudy, president of the Women's Sports Foundation, an advocacy group. It also does not "acknowledge that women are still being discriminated against, and that over 80 percent of schools are still not in compliance."

# Liberal Party Packs It In

NEWSDAY

ALBANY, NY

The Liberal Party, founded on progressive political principles but lately considered to be more concerned about patronage than ideology, has folded after 58 years.

New York's oldest third party, founded by labor leaders Alex Rose and David Dubinsky, helped elect Franklin Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy president, Hugh Carey and Mario Cuomo governor and Fiorello LaGuardia and Rudolph Giuliani mayor of New York. In the fall, the party's nominee for governor, Andrew Cuomo, quit two months before the general election, and his name failed to get the 50,000 votes necessary for the party to retain its automatic place on the ballot.



# Study in Canada and receive \$10,000 towards tuition

Come to an information session on the Killam Fellowship Program to learn about MIT's newest junior year abroad program.

- Where: Room 6-205
- When: February 26, 4:30 - 5:30 pm
- Refreshments will be served

Questions? Contact Stephanie Gayle at x3-2313 or [sgayle@mit.edu](mailto:sgayle@mit.edu).

<http://web.mit.edu/scholarships/www/killamfellowship.html>





# OPINION

## Wasted Opportunities

It is clear that next year's orientation will be integral in defining the future of our residence system. Many important questions have arisen the past month about how it will be

### Editorial

defined and who will define it. Will students have any input into this decision? If the focus is not residence selection, then what is it? Why weren't these questions asked sooner?

The Dormitory Council has taken the Residence System Implementation Team's refusal to make any recommendations as an opportunity to offer its input. They have proposed a schedule that could serve as a good starting point for planning an orientation and rush that will satisfy students and administrators. However, if the students wish to see their input considered in this process, they must be more responsible and more organized. The first petition Dormcon circled on this subject was never presented to anyone, and the second petition failed to make any concrete requests.

Students greeted the administration's announcement, declaring the new focus of orientation to be "welcoming students to the Academy", with confusion. Aside from Rush, past orientations have been little more than a hodgepodge of rape awareness presentations, trust-building activities, and

meetings with advisors. Focusing on introducing new students to academic life would be an improvement, but the administration's new plan seems to lack a commitment to truly make MIT part of the "Academy" that Plato envisioned. If the administration is really concerned about academic life at MIT, it would be well served to look beyond orientation. Worrying about industry-faculty conflicts of interest and cracking down on cheating would do more toward this purpose than adding more professor-student dinners to orientation.

The problem is that it is now February and next year's orientation schedule should be decided by March. MIT certainly had an opportunity to radically improve orientation. With planning, they could have given orientation a new focus and at the same time improved the residence selection process. As a result of this delay the still unformed and unnamed committee planning this year's orientation week will have little opportunity to effect any significant changes. Instead of an opportunity to improve orientation and residence selection MIT is throwing around a new buzzword, students feel once more left out of the decision process, and we have just one month left to do something about it.

Keith J. Winstein has recused himself from this editorial.



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## Letter To The Editor

### Peace in the Middle East

The following open letter was sent to the MIT Students for Israel.

Thank you for sending me a copy of the MITS petition to "support Israel in her quest for peace." I read, with interest and admiration, the names of the signatories. The list was diverse and inclusive: students with Indian and East Asia surnames as well as "Anglos" and Latinos. I was impressed that so many students who had seemingly no ethnic or religious connections with Israel signed this peti-

tion expressing their support.

This reveals an important truth: men and women of good will, committed to democracy and human rights, support the right of Israel to exist and to flourish. It is remarkable, for instance, to read that the Supreme Court of Israel has reinstated Arab candidates for the upcoming elections. It is hard to imagine a court elsewhere in the region accomplishing anything comparable.

I hope to see Israel living in peace with democratic neighbors, all within secure and internationally recognized boundaries, all committed to the well-being of the region's peoples. I reject any attempt to treat Israel as a pariah

state, and, to that end, I introduced last summer H. Res. 499 condemning attempts to boycott Israel scholars and scientific institutions.

I have, from time to time, also rejected resolutions that seemed to me gratuitously offensive to Palestinians. I believe that the United States cannot promote peace in the region if it appears indifferent to the suffering of any people.

Thank you for writing, and please do not hesitate to contact me if I or my staff can help you in any way.

Michael E. Capuano  
U.S. Representative (D-Mass.)

Capuano represents Boston and Cambridge.

### Opinion Policy

**Editorials** are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, executive editor, news editors, features editor, and opinion editors.

**Dissents** are the opinions of the signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

**Columns and editorial cartoons** are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper.

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# Religion and Democracy

Arjun Narayanswamy

"[It is an error to say that] it is praiseworthy that in certain countries it is provided for by law that people who immigrate from outside may publicly exercise their own form of worship."

"Socialism and democracy are pests."

If I told you that the two quotes above were translations of an important religious document, which religion would you think that I was talking about? Consider the quotes: evidence of religious intolerance, a clear political agenda, and a vehement rejection of democracy. Which is the most intolerant, political and anti-democratic religion that you can think of today? Is it Islam? Hinduism? Christianity?

It may be a bit of a surprise that the two quotes above are taken from the Judeo-Christian tradition, in particular from the Syllabus of Errors [1864] and Qui Pluribus [1846] encyclicals of Pope Pius IX. They were promulgated at a time at which, believe it or not, democracy was the avowed goal of communists all over the world, and political regimes in Europe lived in fear of a proletarian rebellion. As a conservative social order, blind to all the political liberties of liberal democracy we now hold so dear, the Roman Catholic Church reacted as any self-respecting political institution would. Pope Pius IX essentially banned democracy as an "error", and democracy nominally stayed banned in the Roman Catholic Church for a century, until Pope John Paul II and Vatican II [1964].

Religion is one of those phenomena that induce in people powerful self-justification. I remember one self-laudatory myth about Hinduism that I learned as a child. Visits to the historic stone temples of Southern India would often involved a "heart-broken" temple guide pointing to a broken stone pillar, or a defaced statue and talking, with stirring emotion, about the murderous "Muslim invaders from the north" who had stormed and wrecked these temples so many hundreds of years ago. I'm not sure if this story was reserved for Hindu tourists, but I went many years (and many visits to stone temples) without ever hearing of a Hindu temple-tyrant or idol-breaker. The subtext was always that Hinduism was a "peaceful, non-violent" religion — Hindus just didn't do that sort of temple-breaking thing.

Imagine my surprise, then, upon visiting Sri Lanka a few years later where I heard more or less the same stories, albeit with the word "Hindu" replacing "Muslim" and the word "Buddhist" replacing "Hindu." Visiting the ancient Sri Lankan capitals of Anuradhapura, Dambulla and Polonnaruwa, I listened in shock as my Buddhist travel guide pointed to images of defaced Buddhas and spoke with feeling about the marauding "Hindu invaders from the north" — exactly the same stories I had heard so long ago! By that time, other incidents in

India had shown me quite clearly that Indian Hinduism was anything but a non-violent religion, but to hear the stories from my youth recast as though in a mirror was eye-opening.

These anecdotes make two points. Firstly, the religious stereotyping that we seem to be practicing nowadays makes us sadly similar to history's practitioners of the same. Overlying the fundamental and, truth be told, significant differences in the way the different religions of the world structure the world view of their adherents is a common thread of violence being perpetrated in the name of religion. Man has a way of working his will into the Word of God.

The second point is that organized religion acts as an important political entity. At this particular moment in history, this is trend appears to be global. Right-wing Christian movements, fundamentalist Islamic parties and right-wing Hindu parties are all different manifestations of the choice of religion as the primary determinant of political identity. The consequences of this polarization troubles democracy everywhere.

Fundamentally, democracy works on the basis of representation and competition. The citizenry of a nation elects representatives of their interests; the various elected interest groups compete to best represent their constituents. For example, it is natural for the steelworkers of a country to vote for a political party that favors strong labor rights. It is natural for this party to debate and represent the interests of their supporters in the offices of state. Compromise is sometimes necessary, often crucial.

The problem with representation on the basis of religion or indeed any other powerful identity marker like race, ethnicity, or language is that the mechanism of compromise that underlies democracy becomes unusable. While a compromise may be reached between a labor rights interest group and a capitalist interest group on the exact minimum wage in a country, that compromise becomes much harder to reach if the competing political groups are polarized on axes of religion. It is uncommon for a person to go from being Religion A to being Religion B; in most cases, the religion you are born with is the one you die with. Consequently, the issues at stake in democratic negotiation are no longer selected interests but the entire identity of a people. There is more at stake and less flexibility, and hence the game of political compromise is played more cruelly. Democratic systems struggle to handle pressures created when religion and politics conflict so strongly. The politics of identity degenerate not to compromise, but to conflict.

Holocaust, apartheid and ethnic cleansing have already taught us the dangers of race-based politics. As we return from church, mosque, temple, or synagogue, we need stay aware of the dangers of another brand of divisive politics as well.

# Thanks, Administration

Maria Schriver

I owe a "thank you" to the MIT administration. My social and intellectual experiences at the Institute have been immeasurably heightened by the tight community and support networks that are available to me. This kind of community is unique to MIT, and is a result of administration policies which formerly allowed freshmen an entire week to make a fully informed decision about the where they would live. Unfortunately, the administration is destroying that policy for future MIT students.

Since I chose my living group, I have spent more time at home than in class, had more contact with my best friends on my hall than with any professor, and learned more about how to succeed at MIT and in life from the people with whom I live than from MIT faculty. The living group is the basic unit of an MIT student's educational experience. The friends made in this environment are the people to whom students turn for help with academics, personal advice, and guidance. They will make the MIT intellectual and social experience a better one.

The MIT administration may believe that if freshmen didn't have as much time to choose their specific living group, students like me would make more friendships with people from other living groups, creating a campus-wide community. I disagree. Most MIT students are too busy and focused on academics to build that kind of large-scale community. Additionally, the current living group-based community is so strong that it is hard to imagine a campus-wide community that could provide the same kind of social resources for students.

Allowing freshmen the time to consider their options and make an informed decision about where to live is the only way to achieve such community. The administration's attitude that, in the words of J. Kim Vandiver, "rush is not a significant part at all of Orientation," will only prevent students from finding a living group that will provide the kind of support that I have found, and will degrade the educational experience of MIT.

Vandiver, the dean for undergraduate research, says a goal for orientation is to "make it possible for students to connect with ... people who can show them what the intellectual experience is all about." His goal is to welcome students to "the academy" by increasing faculty interaction at the expense of time for residence selection. What he fails to realize is that students' relationships with their living groups and upperclassmen will in many ways be more important to the quality of their MIT experience than their relationships with faculty. Thus freshmen must connect with upperclassmen and living groups in order to be truly welcomed.

In light of these arguments, I have a few suggestions for rush. While allotting more time

to dorm rush would be ideal, and would be consistent with the exposure to upperclassmen that is essential to "welcoming freshmen to the academy," I understand that there is other valuable orientation programming and that freshmen shouldn't be asked to come to campus earlier than necessary. Thus my suggestions shouldn't necessitate increased time for rush.

Dean for Undergraduate Education Robert P. Redwine says that the low percentage of freshmen entering the housing adjustment lottery "is an indication that they were somewhat satisfied where they ended up." I disagree; after days of asking every freshmen I met during rush if they would enter the housing lottery and why or why not, the most common answer I got was not "I am somewhat satisfied" but rather, "I don't want to move all of my stuff." Selection should be based on where freshmen are happy, not on where they happen to have their things.

Moving parent orientation back to after the dorm lottery would solve this problem because freshmen would come for orientation with only a suitcase and their parents would bring the rest of their stuff after they got their permanent housing assignment. This past year, many parents stayed past their expected check-out time, meaning that freshmen spent time buying dorm supplies rather than participating in orientation events and meeting faculty and upperclassmen. It makes sense that the current schedule may satisfy parents, who might have to drive to campus twice, or who might find the whole schedule a little confusing if parent orientation were moved. However, I believe that the advantages described above warrant moving it.

The importance of the living group to the MIT experience should bring the administration to encourage rush events more than it did last year. A clear explanation of the process both from orientation leaders and in the written materials freshmen are given over the summer and when they arrive if necessary. After the changes, confusion about the process made it difficult for upperclassmen to advise freshmen on this process. Also, making it clear that residence selection is important by scheduling larger blocks of time exclusively for rush will make freshmen aware that they should at least be considering all of their living options.

If the administration is truly committed to welcoming freshmen in a way that prepares them to have the best educational experience possible, it should recognize the importance of interaction with upperclassmen and comfort in a living group to that experience. Redwine may be right: most freshmen may be "somewhat satisfied." But there is a big difference between being "somewhat satisfied" and feeling like you've found a living group where you really belong. Only the latter will give students the social resources they need to thrive at MIT.

Maria Schriver is a member of the class of 2005.

# Destruction in Israel

Ken Nesmith

Peace seems as distant a possibility as ever in the Arab-Israeli conflict; the last month saw a new bloody round of fighting in Palestinian territory. There is one well-known phenomenon in the conflict, however, that moves the prospect of peace tragically further out of reach. It is a sickly destructive tactic entirely at odds with Western values that has taken hold in the collective mind of an entire society, it perverts and disables the causes it purports to help, and it must stop if the prospect of peaceful resolution is to find new life.

The tactic is driven both by economics and religious fundamentalism. Some of its practitioners seek a divine reward promised to them in texts they believe to be the word of their God, leading them to strike illegally and immorally against the innocent and defenseless who earn their victimhood merely by their presence, while others simply choose this tactic as a means to help their families and escape economic hardship. Although the majority of society does not practice that extremism, and most actually oppose the practice, the constant threat of aggression and attack leads them to sympathize with the principles and motivations that bring it to terrible fruition. It is a practice that denies a fundamental and universal freedom to live. Despite popular disapproval, sympathetic governments provide money and support for its practice, making only nominal efforts to stop it as politics demand. Even during the nineties, when a foundation for peace seemed so close at hand, this practice continued nearly unabated. It deserves complete, unequivocal condemnation, and it must be stopped.

I refer, of course, to Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. The Israeli government seizes land, often legally held by Palestinian cit-

izens, and on it builds housing for Jewish Israeli citizens. The precise mechanism of seizure varies between open theft, military seizure, state annexation, and purchase from absentee landowners. Too often, Palestinian homes are expropriated at tank and gunpoint, farms are seized, and trees uprooted to force evacuation, destroying the civilian's legitimate, titled possessions and often their sole viable means of livelihood. Once land is controlled, settlements are built and administered solely for Jewish Israeli citizens. While fundamentalist Judeo-Christians hold that once Jews fully occupy the right portions of land, the second coming of Christ will occur, others support settlements merely as a statement of the Jewish right to land in the Middle East.

The true importance of this crime must be understood by examining it conceptually. The settlements represent a fundamental, comprehensive denial of the right to own property. They abrogate this simple, fundamental right, the means to moral, reasonable, and civilized, existence, by forcibly taking the legal possessions of citizens. Such a flagrant denial of property rights reduces its practitioners to morally bankrupt thugs unwelcome in any society respectful of reason; it is no surprise, then, that most Israelis disapprove of the practice.

The settlements are not filled naturally; instead, the Israeli government pays citizens, who cite economic considerations as their primary reason for settlement, to live in the settlements. (Religious and ideological conditions are the next most important). Additionally, foreigners from Russia, Africa, and elsewhere around the world are imported to fill the bland cement neighborhoods. Often these immigrants harvested from around the world take the offer to leave difficult living conditions to live at low cost in Israel without knowing the nature of their newly constructed homes. The settlements put a huge

tax burden on the struggling economy and earn resentment in Israel. For 2003, almost \$400 million has been allocated for the settlements, further hobbling an economy already crippled by war and failing socialist fiscal policies.

The settlements are built deep into Palestinian territory as a means of asserting physical control over the lands. Israel has taken control of over fifty percent of the West Bank, the larger of two small pieces of land to which Palestinians are confined. Some of these lands are current settlements, some are reserved for future expansion, and some are just controlled. Twenty-five percent of Gaza Strip, the smaller piece of land that is the most densely populated in the world, has likewise been taken for settlements. Settlements are often constructed with the obvious intention of disrupting Palestinian communities. Massive roads that connect one settlement to another cut through the hearts of small villages hundreds of years old, making them unlivable. Other settlement plans encircle small villages with walls and security buffers, effectively imprisoning the village and ending its access to farmlands and any remaining neighboring villages. Swaths of land are flattened around roads and settlements as security buffer zones. Settlements disproportionately consume the limited water resources in these areas.

The practice is a divisive one within Israel and elsewhere. Various media outlets now refer to the Gilo settlement as a "Jewish neighborhood on the outskirts of Jerusalem, built on land occupied by Israel in 1967." The New York Times and CNN both now often call settlements mere "neighborhoods"; when confronted about this change, CNN replied that they "don't want to talk about this issue."

The number of settlers and settlements continues to grow. Between 1993 and 2000, the number of settlers in the West Bank, excluding the Eastern half of Jerusalem, doubled under the

cover of "natural growth", while the world was told that settlement expansion had been frozen.

Ultimately, these settlements severely exacerbate the conflict; the public knows this. A *Christian Science Monitor-Investor's Business Daily* poll asked, "To what extent is the spreading of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights responsible for the suicide bombings by Palestinians?" Respondents answered on a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 meant "not at all responsible" and 7 meant "completely responsible." Sixty two percent answered from 4-7; twenty-two percent answered from 1-3. Clearly, the public understands how settlements can prompt violence.

At a time when the United States looks to justify attacks on Iraq because of Saddam's violations of international law and U.N. Security Council resolutions, we might consider how such resolutions are respected in this situation. U.N. Security Council resolution 446 states that Israeli settlements built on land occupied since 1967 "have no legal validity and constitute a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace." Resolution 446 also asks Israel to observe the Fourth Geneva Convention, which states that an occupying power "shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies." Passed in 1979, this resolution has been followed by resolutions condemning Israeli failure to comply with it; that failure continues today. Settlements continue to expand.

There are several severe difficulties which block the path to peace. This is one of them, and it's among the most important. Negotiating for land that's being seized has been described as negotiating for a pizza while one side is eating it. It's an apt simile. To respect Palestinians, to respect the will of Israeli citizens, and to respect international law and order, the Israeli government needs to cease settlement activity.



# THE ARTS

## CLASSICAL REVIEW

### BSO Puts Rural China on 'The Map'

Yo-Yo Ma Stars in World Premiere of Tan Dun's Concerto for Cello, Video, and Orchestra

By Eun J. Lee

FEATURES EDITOR

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Tan Dun, conductor

Yo-Yo Ma, cello

Symphony Hall

Feb. 20, 22, 25, 8 p.m.; Feb. 21, 1:30 p.m.

Few things in life live up to my expectations, and this past week's Boston Symphony Orchestra world premiere of Tan Dun's *The Map*, featuring Yo-Yo Ma as soloist and the composer at the podium, was no exception. Tan Dun has described the concerto for cello, video, and orchestra as being "about minority cultures in China, looking at the past as well as the future."

For me, the musical piece was less of a concert and more of a personal experience.

I can't say that I really knew what to expect of my evening at the symphony. I suppose I imagined music similar to his Oscar-winning score of *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, which also featured Yo-Yo Ma as soloist. That soundtrack blew me away. It was original and took my imagination away to the rustic wilderness and mythical heroes of a country I had never set my eyes on before.

Like this earlier work, Tan Dun's concerto does not stand alone. It tells a story about his spiritual journey of rediscovering his native musical roots. The contributions of the cello and orchestra work in tandem with documentary video footage of traditional music forms in three aboriginal villages within a province of his homeland, Hunan.

On the night of the concert, Symphony Hall was packed like I have never seen it. There was a line out the door for the box office, and a man with graying hair and a long trench coat was holding a sign that read "Looking for 2 tickets, preferably together." The orchestra stage was set up a little differently for Tan Dun's piece. A large projector screen dropped down from the wall during intermission, and there were three large flat-

screen televisions on both sides of the conductor. He also had a small screen on his conducting stand so he could keep the orchestra and soloist in sync with the music coming from the video.

When Yo-Yo Ma walked out on the stage, the whole mood of Symphony Hall changed. You could literally hear a pin drop as his eyes closed, head tilted forward, and his bow was poised and ready to begin Tan Dun's journey. From the moment Yo-Yo Ma sat down with his amber cello, he seemed to be completely immersed in another dimension — an intense world of pure emotion and crystal clear resonance which he allowed the packed Symphony Hall to briefly share.

Each stroke of the bow was as smooth as honey to the ears. At times it was hard to distinguish where he ended and his instrument began, and even harder still to decide whether he was an extension of the ebony and horse hair or whether they were an extension of him. At other times it seemed as if the two were in a graceful tango, dancing to the music they were creating.

I'm not sure that anyone in that packed hall really knew what to expect when the first video was projected onto the massive overhead screen. It was a black-and-white still shot of a group of cute old Chinese women sitting next to each other. For a second, it almost seemed delightfully charming with the deep strokes of Yo-Yo Ma's cello. For a second.

Moments later, the women came into color and their cries floated up even to the furthest corners of the building. Yo-Yo Ma's cello was hard to hear behind what I later learned was the rural Chinese tradition of professional crying at a funeral mourning. The cello lines and the percussive element in the orchestra were meant to mimic the mourners' vocal gestures, but they were hard to hear or focus on over the crying.

"Okay, that's a little weird," I thought to myself. "But maybe Yo-Yo will play 'The Eternal Vow' from *Crouching Tiger* now."

The next movement featured a man on the



Composer and conductor Tan Dun shared the stage with Yo-Yo Ma this past week at the BSO for the world premiere of *The Map*.

giant screen playing a leaf. How does one play a leaf, you might ask? By blowing it between your lips, of course. With pursed lips and steady hands manipulating the kazoo-like sonority of the leaf into different pitches, the man on the screen played his heart out onto cellulose and chlorophyll. Once again, the cello part mimicked the melody of the performer on the screen in an almost playful duet.

Eight more movements featured similarly fundamental forms of music, from bamboo pipes and tongue singing to "cymbal coloring" and the functional antiphonal singing "mating call" of Miao women.

The stone drum movement stood out the most. The video clip showed Tan Dun's hands clicking and rubbing stones of different composition, shapes, and sizes, producing a percussional melody whose themes were once again mimicked by the orchestra and cello. A surprising twist to the musical interplay, however, was the use of the three smaller flat-panel screens on the stage, which had been

black up until this point in the concert. As the hands manipulated the stones on the big projection screen, each small screen had its own set of hands playing in accord with the rest.

Tan Dun's *The Map* was hardly what I would call conventional, but then again, true art defies society's conventions and questions its values. Artists show the rest of us the beauty in the world that we otherwise would not see.

The music was not mellifluous to my Western ears. Although I appreciated the artistic value of the piece, I doubt I will be downloading the MP3 anytime soon. The experience, however, was unique and thought-provoking. I walked away with a sense of unease. It was different, and I liked it.

If all I wanted to get out of the concert was to pick up a catchy tune, I could have easily spared myself the trouble of trudging into Boston in the sopping cold rain by just turning on the radio and listening to the overplayed, overrated, and meaningless drone of contemporary pop music. The concert was not about feeling familiarity or mindlessly experiencing the music with only your ears. The night's program provided a mix of the abstract with contemporary through the selections of Shostakovich, Cage, and Britten before the big finale.

The real value in Tan Dun's work was that it didn't attempt to dole out pretentious answers to all of life's problems. Rather, it gave insight into questions that the observer may never have known to exist. The fundamental nature of the musical forms that Tan Dun found in his pilgrimage to China leads one to question the roots of our culture's own musical heritage and our Western definitions of beauty.

*The Map* illuminates the universality of music. In Tan Dun's world, musical instruments are tree leaves and stones. While some may think these instruments primitive, they elucidate the universal importance of music in all cultures around the world.

## CLASSICAL REVIEW

### Boston Meets Vienna in Evening of Transcriptions

"Music of Three Viennas" Recital Features Music of Beethoven, Brahms, Schoenberg, and Webern

By Bogdan Fedele

STAFF WRITER

David Deveau, piano

Kresge Auditorium

Feb. 22, 8 p.m.

Have you ever wondered how entertaining the chamber music experience can be? You might have been surprised about last Saturday's Faculty Concert in Kresge, featuring pianist and MIT senior lecturer David Deveau. The theme, "Music of the Three Viennas," works by Beethoven, Brahms, Schoenberg, and Webern, and even the image of Beethoven's death mask on posters told us we were in for a grave and sober concert.

And yet the concert was far from being an overpowering experience. Instead, it came out as a light-hearted show: brilliant, exuberant, and even funny.

How entertaining can Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto be? Wait until you hear the transcription for piano and string quintet. It is true that the transcription, which has surfaced recently (1995), is surrounded by stark controversy. Whether the piano part was intended to be more ornamented or not, we might never know, yet the piece is incredibly different from the standard version of the concerto.

To contrast the orchestra's reduction to five measly strings, the piano part — believe it or not — has been dressed up with a wild

array of extra notes, scales, arpeggios, and trills, all of which are hard to get used to. Take for example the beginning of the development in the first movement. The piano utters the supreme question of the theme: four F's in a row. The pause that follows is crucial; it is a moment when time freezes, bewildered. Yet the transcription doesn't offer this moment. Instead, fortissimo octaves in the left hand quickly answer, dissipating the mystery.

However, leaving aside all the technicalities of the score, the performance was admirable. A brilliant Deveau led the unusual piano sextet performing the Beethoven work with strong concern for rhythm and flow. The first movement was played fast and the third even faster than usual, highlighting Deveau's superb touch and his sparkling piano technique.

The strings, modest in sonority (given the score), stood out through liveliness and good musical direction. Yet, we all know that the poor cello will never be able to replace the tumult of the timpani and double basses. Certainly, Kresge Auditorium is too big a hall for this intimate arrangement of the concerto, and that's why the overall impression is a bit unyielding. Perhaps, if played in Killian Hall, it might have been the ultimate Beethoven chamber music experience.

#### Beethoven big, but Brahms bigger

Beethoven might have enjoyed large sonorities, but Brahms, even more so, made a career using them. Then, it's natural to wonder what happens with Brahms' First Piano Concerto when you take out the orchestra part and add bits of it on top of the piano part. You guessed it: another transcription, this time arranged for piano duet by the composer himself.

Cringing could be a normal reaction, even if the arrangement is Brahms' own. No, it's not because Brahms did a poor job in

arranging his own piece. And no, it's not because of the poor Steinway & Sons piano on stage, which sounded hoarse and unable to put out as much power as the music required. And certainly, the interpretation of Deveau and his student Jonathan Lee G, whose real-time acrobatics in switching hands and playing tens of keys at the same time was impressive and brilliant. It is simply that the piece was not meant to be a piano duet. Its energies and potentials, and its olympian architecture, are only suited for the grand orchestra.

Nevertheless, hearing Brahms' concerto on a single piano is a unique experience, and again, very different than its original conception. The piece was a veritable display of heavy pianism. The sparkling scales and trills were balanced well with the more melodic sequences, especially in the second movement, with its choral-like sonority. The monumental sweeps of the third movement were engaging, yet the inability to distinguish between the solo part and the accompaniment made many passages, although very well-played, not completely fulfilling. Nevertheless, I enjoyed this piece tremendously, and I would look forward to see Deveau play this concerto in its actual orchestral setting.

#### 20th-century works provide challenge

The program also featured two solo piano pieces from the third Vienna school: Webern's Variations for Piano, Op. 27, and Schoenberg's famous Piano Piece, Op. 33a. These pieces opened each half of the concert, setting a mysterious atmosphere. The atonal pieces present a challenge to both the listener and the performer, but Deveau responded with confidence, good taste, and theatrics. And there was even a touch of humor. The most notable moment was Deveau's serious announcement before Schoenberg's piece: "This piece is only two minutes long."



WENDY GU—THE TECH

Senior Lecturer David Deveau performs Schoenberg's Piano Piece, Op. 33a, on Saturday night in Kresge Auditorium as part of the MIT Music and Theater Arts Faculty concert series.



## THEATER REVIEW

# Love Your Vagina

*'The Vagina Monologues' Delivers a Powerful Message*

By Pey-Hua Hwang

STAFF WRITER

*The Vagina Monologues*  
Kresge Little Theater  
Feb. 20-22, 8 p.m.  
Written by Eve Ensler

**T**he *Vagina Monologues* was a sold-out show, so, as expected, it started late. However, just as it is worth waiting for a proper orgasm, so too is it worth waiting for a well-paced and well-performed show. The fact that all the proceeds go to good causes doesn't hurt either.

The best thing about the show was the variety in the monologues. Having never seen *The Vagina Monologues* before, I wasn't sure what to expect. I was slightly worried that they might just be a terrible feminist harangue or horribly preachy, but I soon had all of these worries erased. Ensemble cast performances were interspersed between the monologues. More humorous anecdotes like "My Angry Vagina" were followed by deeply moving pieces about abuse and oppression.

The producer, Ruth M. Perlmutter '04, kept saying that the show would have no intermission before it started. After watching the show, I understood why. Each piece was placed strategically to keep the audience off balance, engaged, and most certainly awake. I have often been disappointed by the lack of projection in many MIT productions, but this was certainly not the case in this show. In fact, at certain points I wouldn't have minded having the volume knob turned down a notch, and there were no body microphones.

The tone of the *Vagina Monologues* was similar to that of *Bowling for Columbine*. It

took serious issues and spun them from humorous angles; however, the message was still there. In a short interlude between two longer pieces, Heather Doering '05 presented an "Outrageous Fact": several states in the United States outlaw the possession and sale of vibrators, while the sale of guns is perfectly legal. Her next statement brought down the house: "We have yet to hear of a mass murder committed with a vibrator."

Although all of the monologues were well-delivered, a couple were particularly outstanding. "Reclaiming Cunt," delivered by Adrienne M. Irmer '04, was a fabulous performance piece. Waving a wine bottle and a plastic cup she presented the significance of each of the letters in the word. At one point she even had audience members yelling the word "cunt."

Neha R. Booshan '04 delivered a touching monologue called "My Vagina Was My Village," about a gang rape. The contrast between the flashbacks to innocence and the scared withdrawn shell of the present were completely manifested in Booshan's expressive features.

The show closed with a monologue dedicated to the wonder of childbirth. It was a fitting ending and allowed the symbol of new life to close the show on a note of hope.

The audience was very receptive, and there was a surprising number of males in attendance. There was even a member of MIT Medical available to discuss issues with people after the show.

In short, *The Vagina Monologues*, though sparse in set (only chairs and a curtain) and simple in costume (only red and black), delivered a clear and powerful message: women should love their bodies, their vaginas, and most importantly, themselves.



DONG WANG—THE TECH

Shuo Zhang '06 cries out in "Hair." *The Vagina Monologues* ran last weekend.

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## POP REVIEW

# Hey, Mercedes!

*Pop/Punk Band Headlines A Rockin' Night at T.T.'s*

By Petar Simich

*Hey Mercedes, Armor For Sleep, Panic In Detroit, Lost Pilot*  
*T.T. the Bear's Place*  
Feb. 22, 8 p.m.

**D**espite the cold and wet Saturday night, people still trudged their way to the intimate venue of T.T. the Bear's Place, several blocks up Mass. Ave. from the Institute. All four bands that night took the form of the basic rock quartet.

First up was Lost Pilot, a local band that just released its first album. They're a solid pop/punk hybrid with a decent variety of songs, and they put on a pretty entertaining show. They certainly got into their music, with the lead guitarist bouncing around and the bassist grooving to the music with the help of his distinctive orange bass amp. The singer/guitarist handled the vocals pretty well, putting in plenty of power and emotion into his singing. It was a decent set; I'd go see Lost Pilot perform again.

Next up was Panic In Detroit — they're from Texas, go figure — which had more of a hard rock edge to their music. Their songs were more varied with elements. As my friend pointed out, they borrowed from Rush and even the sliding guitar effect that's in Billy Idol's "White Wedding."

One song I particularly liked sounded like "That Thing You Do" by the Wonders. Several of the songs kept you on your toes, as they ended in places that you'd least expect them. I was also kept on my toes by the cute female bass player. Panic In Detroit was definitely the second-best band that performed that night, and I hope that they come back to Boston in the future.

Armor For Sleep walked on and said, "Hi, we're Armor For Sleep and we're from New Jersey." Ah, New Jersey. That means that they're either a metal band or a pop punk/emo band. I put my money on the latter due to their clothes and haircuts, and sure enough, I made bank! The singer/guitarist had the traditional teenage kid voice. My friend observed that the drummer looked rather stoned. The lead guitarist enjoyed thrashing around off to the side while the bassist swung his bass around like a club and aimed it skywards. Boy, I got a kick out of those guys.

In one of the songs the singer/guitarist started thrashing around and shoved his guitar right into the microphone. Punk rock! For the intro of one song he said that it was about "girlfriends who ditch their boyfriends at parties."

You should've heard me and the rest of the guys in the audience respond to that one. The singer smiled back, "Yeah, I know, it sucks."

Overall, Armor For Sleep was okay. They were more pop punk than overtly emo, and I caught myself tapping along to some of the tunes, although there wasn't much chord progression in some of them.

It was now time for the performance that everyone was waiting for: Hey Mercedes. I've been a fan of the Milwaukee quartet ever since I first saw them two years ago with Jets To Brazil at the Middle East. Their unique brand of fast, intense, drum-heavy pop punk with odd time signatures didn't let the audience down that night.

They kicked things off with "Eleven to Your Seven," one of the better tracks off of their album *Everynight Fire Works*. Immediately the crowd started shouting and singing along with lead vocalist/guitarist Robert Nanna. The entire band was tight. Nanna sang intensely and motioned every now and then with his hands to put emphasis on his lyrics. Drummer Damon Atkinson was incredible. His drumming was solid, and he would do occasional feats of showmanship, twirling a drumstick in his hand before having it crash down on the snare.

Hey Mercedes was the only band that night to use its other band members, guitarist Michael Shumaker and bassist Todd Bell, on backing vocals regularly, adding some pleasant vocal dynamics to the songs. Bell screwed up on one of the songs, but heck, everyone has their bad days. Right when I was going to start shouting out songs for them to play they launched into my favorite and arguably their best song, "A-List Actress," which bounces between three and four beats per measure throughout the song. They also debuted four new songs that they'll be recording soon for their album that is to come out in September. The new songs were in the same vein as their other fast songs, which worried me a bit. It's good stuff, but I'd like to hear some more of the diversity that was displayed on *Everynight Fire Works*.

The set ended with the catchy "Our Weekend Starts on Wednesday," but bowing to the shouts of the crowd, they came back out for an encore performance, with the slow and epic "Quit," followed by a fabulous rendition of "Let's Go Blue," where Nanna inserted a rather odd but humorous rant about Gladys Knight and the Pips.

Thus ended an awesome show with three good bands and one decent band for a darn good price of \$10. I'll be first in line when Hey Mercedes returns to Boston in the fall.



AARON MIHALIK—THE TECH

Robert Nanna (left) performs as a member of Hey Mercedes on Saturday night at T.T. the Bears.

## STUDENT CLASS AIRFARES

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## COMEDY REVIEW

# It's Our Line, Baby!

## Colin Mochrie Provides an Evening of Laughter

By Amandeep Loomba

STAFF WRITER

Colin Mochrie, with guests Jackie Harris and Plush Daddy Fly  
Kresge Auditorium  
Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m.

Colin Mochrie, a star on ABC's "Whose Line is it Anyway," comedian Jackie Harris, and MIT's sketch comedy group Plush Daddy Fly entertained a crowded Kresge Auditorium on Sunday night, in an event sponsored by the classes of 2005 and 2006, the Undergraduate Association and the d'Arbeloff Fund for Alumni Engagement.

Ostensibly, the undergraduate population was supposed to engage the alumni during a reception in the Kresge lobby, over bowls that appeared to have briefly contained baba ganouj. Unfortunately, the lobby was designed to comfortably hold and allow interaction between only a dozen or two dozen people. As one of 300 people crammed inside the small dark space, I regret to say that I received less than one job offer. However, I promise that when I return to MIT as an alumnus, I will be giving those things out left and right.

### Plush Daddy Fly warms up crowd

MIT's own Plush Daddy Fly opened the show with its own brand of unique (insofar as any of the thousands of comedic descendants of Monty Python may claim to be unique) non-improvisational comedy. At the very least, they were perfectly straightforward with

an audience that might have been somewhat unfamiliar with their style of comedy. They came right out and proclaimed that they'd be happy to take audience suggestions, but those suggestions would probably be integrated into performances months from now. The introduction was especially appropriate for those of us who were more familiar with Plush Daddy Fly's great photographer and advertising campaigns than with their comedy.

Plush Daddy Fly performed six sketches, each announced by cleverly drawn poster board signs cleverly placed on clever little music stands in the cleverest corner of the stage. In a rather clever move, they didn't come out to change the signs for each sketch, leaving the audience wondering where one skit ended and the next began. And, while the sketches themselves were somewhat hit-or-miss, the energy of the performers has to be commended. The best among the sketches was easily the brief and effective "Female Emergency," which combined satire, absurdity, commentary, and gross-out humor into one smart little package.

Plush Daddy Fly was nice enough to give the audience a 15-minute breather before Colin Mochrie came on, during which most audience members seemed to be debating whether Colin, one of the stars of ABC's successful and hilarious show "Whose Line is it Anyway," was related to Visiting Professor Simon G.J. Mochrie, lecturer for hilarious early-morning sessions of 8.02. These arguments were inconclusive.

### Mochrie comes with a surprise of his own

Colin Mochrie came onstage with unannounced guest Jackie Harris, giving the crowd a taste of what "improv" was really all about. He announced that he and Harris would try to be funny based on audience suggestions, but it didn't really matter if they were, "because once we're dead, it'll be art."

The absurd, balding wit of Mochrie meshed remarkably well with the spunky vivacity of Harris. The duo ran through six pieces, each of which involved participation from the audience, most of which are performed regularly on "Whose Line is it Anyway." All of them were funny, many of them were hilarious and at least two of them embarrassed the audience members onstage in wonderful ways.

Some of the highlights of the show included the "Film Styles" game, whose premise required Mochrie and Harris to act out scenes from a movie in a variety of audience-suggested styles, "Sound Effects," which saw two shy MIT students providing the sound effects that accompanied the comedians' actions, and "Suggestions from a Hat" (or something), in which the audience provided lines of



AARON D. MIHALIK—THE TECH

Colin Mochrie interrogates Jackie Harris for throwing a pineapple at great velocity at Big Bird in the secret underground command bunker of her sorority house.

dialogue that the comedians worked into their act.

In all of these pieces, the baseline for everyone's enjoyment was actually provided by the audience. Improvisation is a fascinating form of performance because it is truly a way to gauge the collective subconscious of the group participating (or at least the collective subconscious of the loudest people in the group).

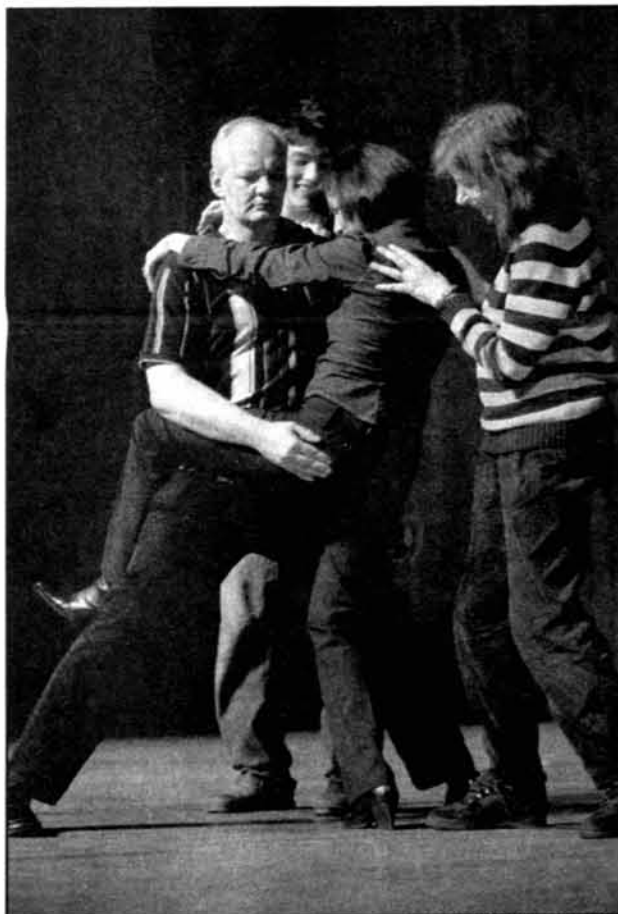
One of the talents MIT students have in spades is creativity. This is shown most straightforwardly in the creative acts of groups such as Plush Daddy Fly, or the Musical Theater Guild's performance of "Star Wars: Musical Edition," not to mention any show put on by improv comedy group Roadkill Buffet. But not everyone has the time or the talent to be in these groups. As such, it was great to sit in the audience and hear otherwise quiet students scream out absurd ideas in the darkness.

Mochrie's performance was uproarious, Jackie Harris was the icing on the cake as well as the shot of espresso afterward, and Plush Daddy Fly has a buttload of laughter to offer. But the best part of Sunday's show was seeing the hilarity drawn out of MIT students and cast onstage in a whole new light.



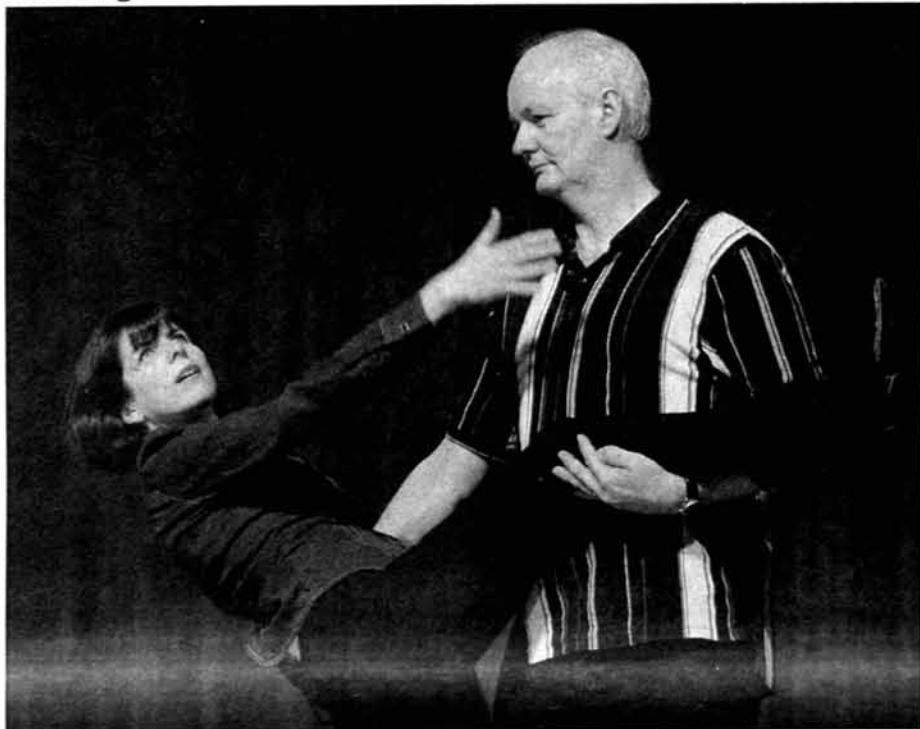
JONATHAN WANG—THE TECH

Jackie Harris meows as a cat handler in "Sound Effects."



JONATHAN WANG—THE TECH

Class of 2005 President Daniel F. Kanamori's mother, Tamara Kanamori, and his brother, Ari Kanamori, pose Colin Mochrie and Jackie Harris in the duo's first game of the evening.



AARON D. MIHALIK—THE TECH

Colin Mochrie dips Jackie Harris in their "Film Styles" game, in which the duo performed in a variety of audience-suggested theatrical styles.



JONATHAN WANG—THE TECH

Colin Mochrie questions a stunned Jackie Harris.



February 25,  
2003

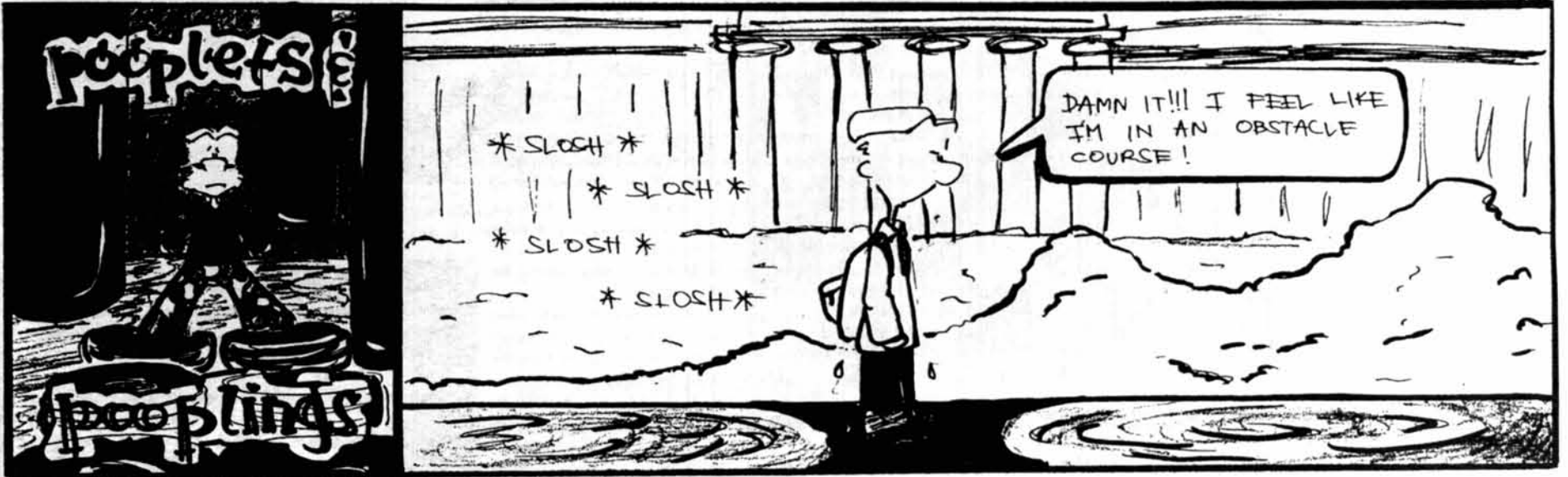
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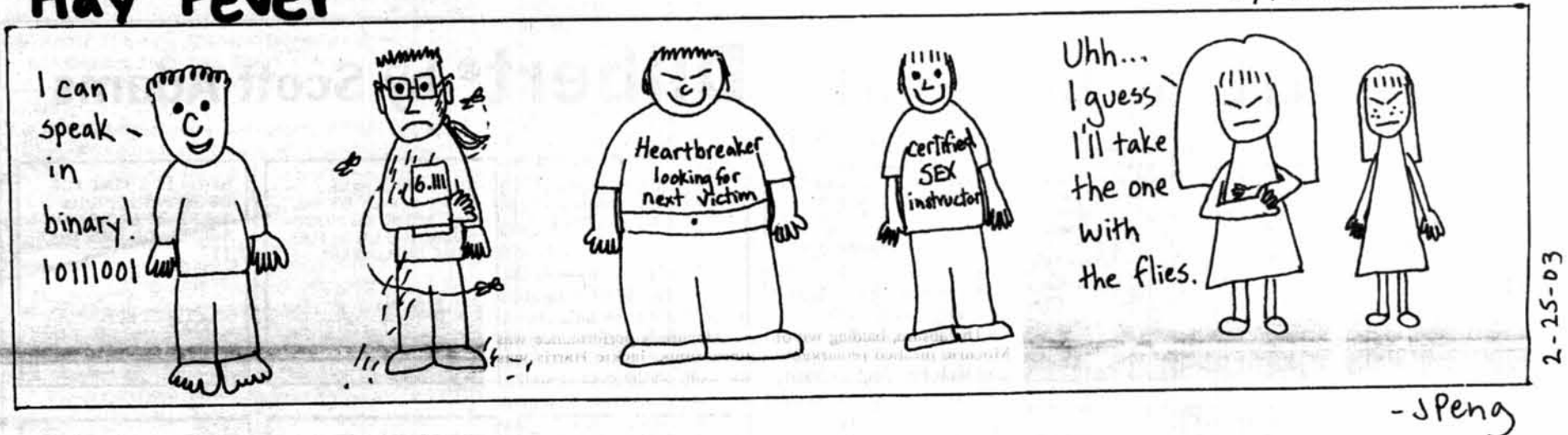
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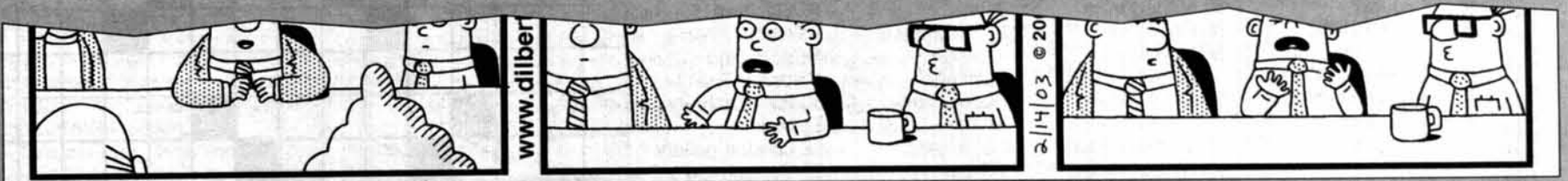


## Hay Fever

by, Qian-nifer



## THE RICK AND CHESTER SHOW



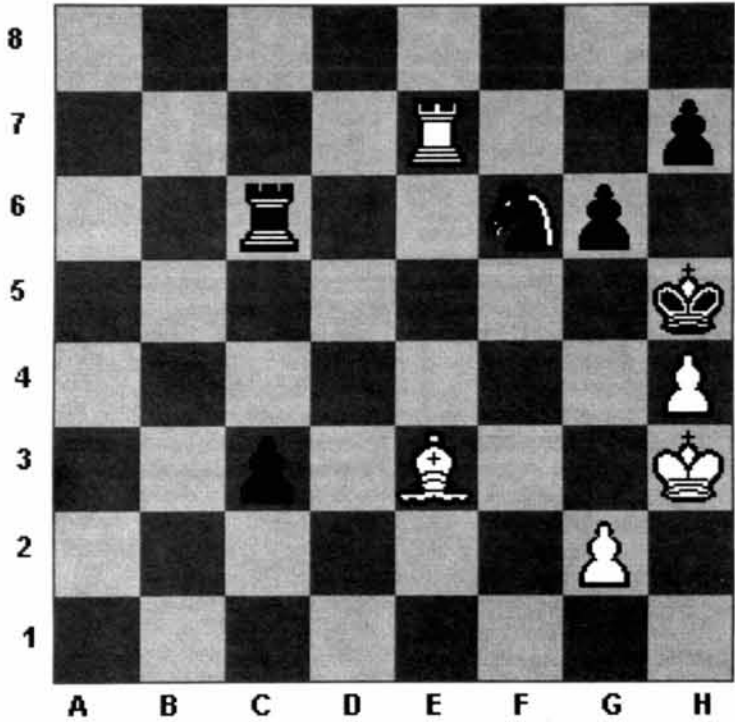
## Want to see the full picture?

Join *The Tech* Production staff and read Dilbert and the rest of the paper before your friends do! Stop by Room 483 of the Student Center or call us at 253-1541 and ask for Joy.



# ChessMate

Solution, page 14



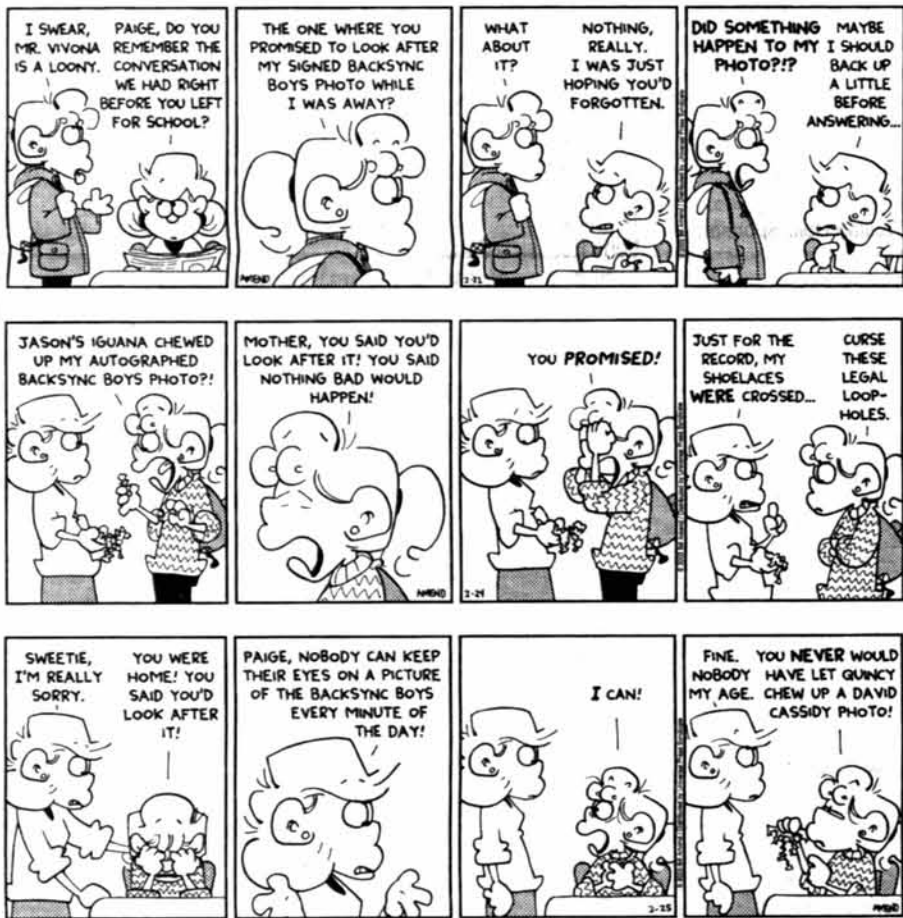
White to Move and Checkmate in Two

Comments? Email <chessmate@the-tech.mit.edu>

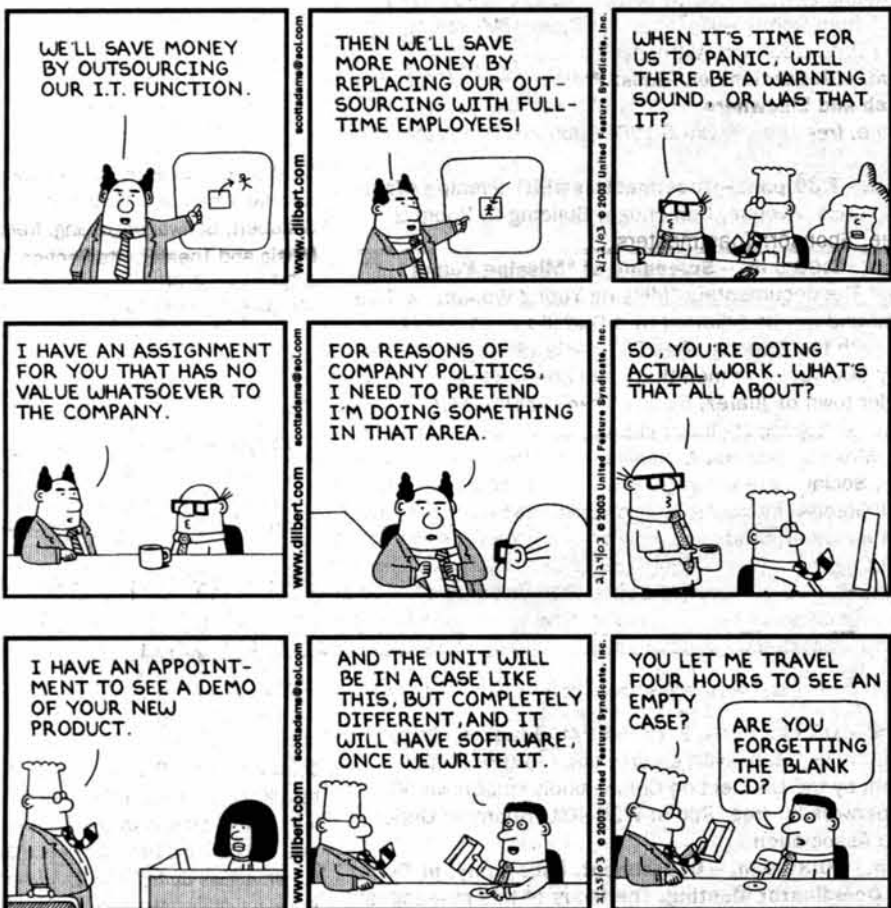


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## FoxTrot by Bill Amend



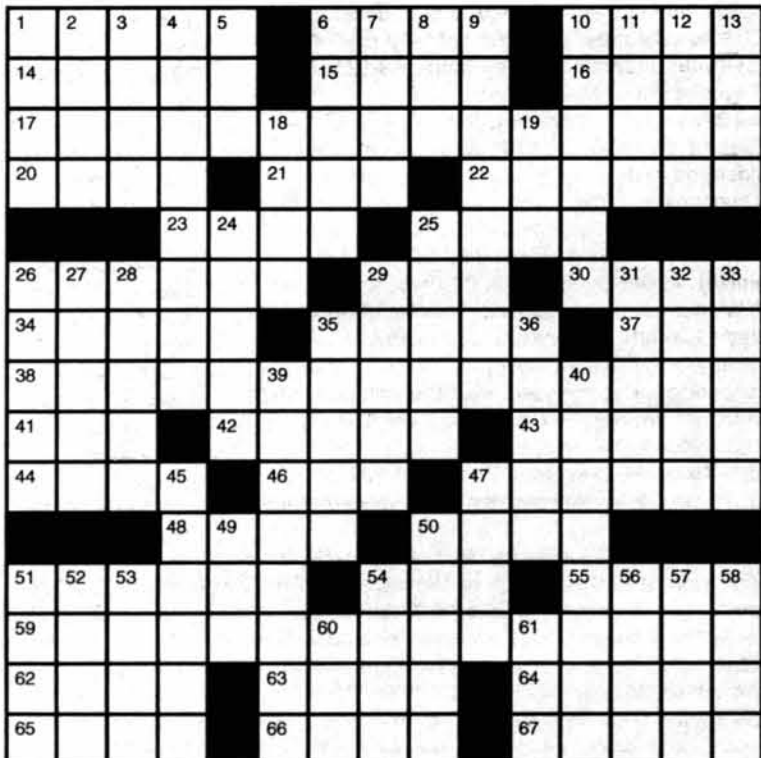
## Dilbert® by Scott Adams



## Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 14

- ACROSS  
1 Big rigs  
6 Cook  
10 Left without words  
14 Over 21  
15 Word after town or dance  
16 Culture medium  
17 Vacillating Joel?  
20 Individual  
21 Commotion  
22 Sea off Corfu  
23 French cleric  
25 Teensy tormentor  
26 Break in the action  
29 Gear tooth  
30 Gabs  
34 Cove  
35 Crisp toast  
37 "Runaway" singer  
Shannon  
38 Old-fashioned
- Rich?  
41 Fury  
42 Works with a beam  
43 Cager Shaq  
44 Croat's neighbor  
46 You bet!  
47 Huggable  
48 Guessed figs.  
50 Put on a scale  
51 Very drunk  
54 Publicize  
55 Horizontal barrier  
59 Dexterous Travis?  
62 To be in Tours  
63 Stridex target  
64 More aloof  
65 "Doe, a ..."  
66 Revolutionary time on earth?  
67 Perplexed
- DOWN  
1 Old adages  
2 Actress Falco  
3 Comic Martin  
4 Doomed  
5 Hog home  
6 Reprove mildly  
7 Sainly glow  
8 Cornering pipe  
9 Passing quickly  
10 Overly fastidious  
11 Jamaican fruit  
12 \_\_\_ fide (in bad faith)  
13 \_\_\_ Mawr College  
18 Collars  
19 Long, fluffy scarf  
24 Synthetic rubber  
25 Olympic medals  
26 Old-time music systems  
27 Habitué  
28 Wood for pilings  
29 Relinquishes  
31 Said further  
32 Piano part  
33 With guile  
35 Erato and her sisters  
36 In connection with  
39 Routine  
40 Perform with subtlety  
45 Drinking spree  
47 Dashing Grant  
49 Wild blue yonder  
50 Bill attachment  
51 Molt  
52 London gallery  
53 Concerning  
54 Actress Paquin  
56 Black cuckoos  
57 \_\_\_ fixe (obsession)  
58 Vega's constellation  
60 Top card  
61 Narrow inlet





# Events Calendar

Events Calendar appears in each issue of *The Tech* and features events for members of the MIT community. *The Tech* makes no guarantees as to the accuracy of this information, and *The Tech* shall not be held liable for any losses, including, but not limited to, damages resulting from attendance of an event. Contact information for all events is available from the Events Calendar web page.

Visit and add events to Events Calendar online at <http://events.mit.edu>

## Tuesday, February 25

**10:45 a.m. – Campus Tour.** Student Led Campus Tours are approximately 90 minutes long and provide a general overview of the main campus. Please note that campus tours do not visit laboratories, living groups or buildings under construction. Groups over 15 people need to make special reservations. Campus tours start at the conclusion of the Admissions Informations Session. The Campus Tour begins in Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**11:50 a.m. - 12:55 p.m. – Geoff Reiss SVP, Programming, Production & Operations, ESPN Internet Group.** Geoff Reiss is senior vice president, programming, production and operations for ESPN Internet Group (EIG), the worldwide leader in online sports. In his current position, Reiss manages the development and production of ESPN.com, in addition to the entire EIG fleet of services, which includes the official sites of the NFL, NBA, NASCAR and WNBA, and SoccerNet, the most popular soccer site in the world. Under his direction, EIG sites have received critical and popular acclaim for their pioneering editorial and technical features that deliver the best sports experience online. Reiss joined Starwave Corporation in 1993. free. Room: TBD. Sponsor: MITEntrepreneurshipCenter. MIT Sloan MediaTech Club.

**11:55 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. – VCPIA Lunch Meeting.** Weekly lunch meeting sponsored by the MIT Venture Capital & Principal Investment Association. free. Room: Tang Center. Sponsor: MIT Venture Capital and Principal Investment (VCPI) Association, MITEntrepreneurshipCenter.

**12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. – The Visual Language of Science in Islam, 800-1500AD.** Dibner Institute Lunchtime Colloquium. free. Room: E56-100. Sponsor: Dibner Institute.

**2:45 p.m. – Campus Tour.** free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**4:00 p.m. – MIT Astrophysics Colloquium: PETER WOODS.** "Soft Gamma Repeater Burst Activity in Anomalous X-ray Pulsars." free. Room: MIT Center for Space Research, Room 37-252. Sponsor: Astrophysics.

**5:00 p.m. – Reflections on Glass: Projects in the MIT Glass Lab and Elsewhere.** Talk by Peter Houk, MIT Artist-in-Residence. free. Room: Rm 6-120. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

**6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. – Toastmasters@MIT Evening Meetings.** 77 Mass. Avenue, Cambridge, Building 2, Room 2-131. free. Sponsor: Toastmasters.

**6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – Screening of "Missing Young Woman."** The documentary "Missing Young Woman" will be screened and will be followed by a Question and Answer session with the Director. This film deals with the murders of nearly 300 young women that have been taking place in the border town of Juarez, Mexico. free. Room: Room 4-370. Sponsor: Amnesty International, Graduate Student Council, Mexican Student Association, Women's Studies Program, Social Justice Cooperative, Lucha, Mujeres Latinas, MIT Greens. Mexico Initiative, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University Mexican Association, Large Events Funding, ARCADE.

**8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – International Film Club- Film Seminar.** Educational Film Screening. free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: International Film Club.

## Wednesday, February 26

**5:00 a.m. – UA Elections, Late Petition Deadline.** Candidates that have been given an extension to turn in their paperwork by the UA Election Commission must have all their paperwork in. free. Room: W20-401. Sponsor: Undergraduate Association.

**9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. – Department, Laboratory, or Center EHS Coordinator Meeting.** The focus of this meeting is: Update and planning for EHS inspections and audits; Update on EHS Space Registration; and Update on EHS Training. DLC EHS Coordinators in laboratories and EHS Lead Contacts should plan to attend. It is optional for non-lab DLC EHS Coordinators. Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP your attendance. free. Room: 68-181. Sponsor: The Environment at MIT Web site.

**9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. – Administrative Officer/Fiscal Officer Meeting.** Remarks by the Provost and the Executive Vice President as well as reports and updates geared for the AO/FO community. free. Room: Wong Auditorium, Building E51. Sponsor: Administrative & Fiscal Officer meetings.

**10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. – Lemelson-MIT Student Prize Announcement.** At this event the 2003 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize Winner will be announced. This \$30,000 award is presented to an MIT student who demonstrates an outstanding ability in the field of invention and innovation. Shuttle transportation is provided. Visit the web site listed for more information. free. Room: Museum of Science. Sponsor: Lemelson-MIT Program.

**10:45 a.m. – Campus Tour.** free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. – SAPweb: Purchasing on the Web.** (formerly Overview of Purchasing on the Web Quick Start) This course covers all aspects of using SAPweb for purchasing, including requisitioning from external vendors and internal providers, as well as ordering from Partner Vendors' online catalogs. Topics include: business rules governing requisitions; creating and displaying requisitions in SAPweb; accessing Partner Vendors' online catalogs. Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

**12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. – Rainbow Lounge Open.** MIT's resource lounge for lesbian, bisexual, gay, and transgendered members of the community offers a place to hang out, various activities, and a lending library during its open hours. free. Room: 50-306. Sponsor: lbgt@MIT.

**12:10 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – Oceanography and Climate Sack Lunch Seminar.** "The maintenance of sea ice extent in the climate system." free. Room: 54-915. Sponsor: Physical Oceanography.

**12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. – CRE - Career Profile Series: Consulting.** Curt Cornelissen, Pricewaterhouse Coopers and Mecky Adnani, VP, Recap Advisors. free. Room: W31-301. Sponsor: Center for Real Estate.

**2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – spouses&partners@mit: Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity.** Exhibits include the Mapparium, the world-famous, three-story, stained-glass globe that you can walk inside, and the Monitor Gallery, a look at world events and issues through the lens of a Pulitzer Prize-winning newspaper, the Christian Science Monitor. Meet in front of the MIT Coop in Kendall Square at 2:30 p.m. We will take the T to Green Line - Symphony stop. You can buy discount tickets at MITAC for \$3.50 (regular price \$5). MITAC is located in the basement of Walker Memorial (50-005). They are open Tuesday through Friday from 11:00 am-4:00 pm. For more info, call (617) 253-7990 or check out <http://web.mit.edu/mitac/>. \$3.50. Room: Meet at the MIT Coop in Kendall Square. Sponsor: spouses&partners@mit, MIT Medical.

**2:45 p.m. – Campus Tour.** free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. – "Extending Interferometry to Optical Wavelengths."** free. Room: 37-212. Sponsor: AeroAstro, Massachusetts Space Grant Consortium.

**4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – Career Discussion/ Support Group.** The Career Support Group is the opportunity for MIT employees to participate with others in a confidential, facilitated group to discuss common themes of setting goals and taking action in your career. MIT encourages employees to constantly develop themselves, whether they are satisfied or unsatisfied in their current positions. free. Room: Career Planning West Campus Annex (W89-257). Sponsor: Career Planning @ MIT.

**4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. – Linearization Coefficients for some Orthogonal Polynomials.** Refreshments will be served at 3:30 PM in Room 2-349. free. Room: Room 2-338. Sponsor: Combinatorics Seminar. Department of Mathematics.

**5:00 p.m. – AMP (Advanced Music Performance) Student Recital.** Graham T. Wright, (G) baritone; Karen Harvey, piano. Schubert, Schwanengesang. free. Room: Killian Hall. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

**5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – Preprofessional Event: Essay Writing for Medical and Law School Applications.** This workshop is geared to assist students in writing their personal statement/essay for medical, dental, other health professions, and law school applications. free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: OCSA.

**7:00 p.m. – Working to Improve AIDS Education in Belize.** Free. Room: MIT 3-133. Sponsor: MIT Western Hemisphere Project.

**7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – Patron Saint Day of MOST.** free. Room: Eastgate Penthouse Lounge. Sponsor: MIT Organization of Serbian Students (MOST).

**7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. – Bible Study.** Weekly Bible study held by the Baptist Student Fellowship. free. Sponsor: Baptist Student Fellowship, Baptist Campus Ministry.

**7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. – Sangam-MIT FLL Movie.** Movies screened as a part of MIT FLL course. Email was sent out on sangam-request@mit.edu. free. Room: Variable, was sent out in email. Sponsor: Sangam. MIT FLL.

**7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. – Korean Comfort Woman.** Testimony of a Korean Comfort Woman. As a girl, Kim HwaSun was forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese Imperial Forces during WWII. She will discuss her experience and her physical and psychological struggles during and after the war. Participants: a former Korean Comfort woman, Dr. Ok Cha Soh, President of Washington Coalition of Comfort Woman (WCCW). Co-sponsored by Foreign Languages and Literatures, History, Women's Studies, Campus Committee on Race Relations (CCRR), MIT Japan Program. free. Room: Killian Hall. Sponsor: History Office, Women's Studies Program. FLL.

**7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. – HTC Film Series.** Theme is documentary films. click on link for titles. free. Room: 3-133. Sponsor: History, Theory and Criticism of Architecture and Art.

**8:00 p.m. – Weekly Wednesdays @ the Muddy Charles Pub.** Meet your fellow social graduate students at the Muddy Charles Pub located in the Walker Memorial Building. What will be there for you? \$1 drafts, a variety of beers, wines and sodas, lots of free wings, Sox on the screen. Bring IDs. free. Room: Muddy Charles Pub. Sponsor: Edgerton House Residents' Association, MITEntrepreneurshipCenter. TechLink, Wing It.

**8:00 p.m. – "36 Chowringhee Lane."** Film with Apama Sen, being screened in conjunction with her upcoming residency (see film & talk on April 16). free. Room: Rm 4-237. Sponsor: MIT Office of the Arts Special Programs, Foreign Languages and Literatures, Program in Women's Studies and Comparative Media Studies.

**8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – IFILM Film Seminar.** Screening of a movie followed by a discussion. free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: International Film Club.

**8:00 p.m. – UA Elections: UA President and Vice President Debate.** Get to know the issues. Listen and ask questions to your future UA President and Vice President. Food provided. free. Room: Student Center First Floor. Sponsor: Undergraduate Association, The Tech.

**8:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. – Swing Dancing.** No partner required. Beginners welcome. free. Room: Student Center 2nd floor. Sponsor: Lindy Hop Society.

## Thursday, February 27

**10:45 a.m. – Campus Tour.** free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**12:00 p.m. – MIT Chapel Concert.** Carla Chrisfield, soprano and Andrus Madsen, harpsichord. Songs and Airs of Henry Purcell. free. Room: MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – MIT Events Calendar: Learn to Post Your Events Online.** See how easy it is to post your MIT event online in the web-based MIT Events Calendar system. Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

**1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Conversational English Class.** Join us for a free conversational English class for international students and spouses at MIT. Most attendees are women able to speak freely who desire to increase their English skills. Class covers a variety of topics including American culture and holiday descriptions. Free. Room: W11 Board Room. Sponsor: Baptist Campus Ministry.

**1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. – Rainbow Lounge Open.** free. Room: 50-306. Sponsor: lbgt@MIT.

**1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. – Weight Watchers at Work!** free. Room: Women's Lounge-Room 8-219. Sponsor: Weight Watchers.

**2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Spam Filtering Quick Start.** This discussion will cover the basics of e-mail spam screening that has been implemented at MIT through the use of SpamAssassin. Discussion will include how to configure different e-mail clients to filter messages considered to be spam, as well as how to set your spam scoring threshold and how to use allow/deny lists. free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.

**2:45 p.m. – Campus Tour.** free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. – Physics - Results from the MAP Satellite.** The MAP satellite is currently mapping the entire microwave sky to unprecedented accuracy and precision from an orbit around the second Earth-Sun Lagrange point. The primary goal is to produce high fidelity maps in five frequency bands spanning from 22 to 94 GHz in order to image the cosmic microwave background (CMB). We begin with a description the instrument and mission and then present results from the first data release. free. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: Physics Department.

**4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. – Approximation Algorithms via Linear Programming: Three Easy Results.** ORC Spring Seminar Series. Seminar reception immediately following in the Philip M. Morse Reading Room, E40-106. free. Room: E56-270. Sponsor: Operations Research Center.

**5:30 p.m. – "African American Living History Museum."** Performance event featuring short vignettes describing lives of figures from African American history created by MIT students in collaboration with Associate Professor Thomas DeFrantz and guest artist Vinie Burrows (see <http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/tt/2002/oct23/arts-camit.html>). free. Room: La Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

**5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – Interviewing Workshop.** free. Room: 4-231. Sponsor: OCSA.

**7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. – Forum on Voting Reform.** How can we become free to vote for a candidate we support without allowing a distasteful candidate into office? Why did Tolman and Reich lose to O'Brien in the Democratic primaries this year? Why did Michael Capuano secure himself the Democratic nomination to be our representative to U.S. Congress with a mere 23% of the vote? Why did the Florida vote come so close in 2000? The answer is that none of these elections used Instant Runoff Voting! Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) is a new way of voting that may become the standard for some offices in Massachusetts as soon as the 2004 elections. In IRV, each voter ranks the candidates according to preference, choosing one candidate first, another second, and so on. free. Room: 6-120. Sponsor: College Democrats, MIT, MIT Greens.

**7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – Panchatantra Class.** Classes in Indian Folklore. free. Room: 4-144. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council, Sangam. South Asian Center.

**8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – UA Elections: Study Break.** Take a break, eat some pizza, get to know your UA Candidates. All MIT Undergraduates are welcome to attend. free. Room: Student Center First Floor. Sponsor: Undergraduate Association.

**9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – Coffee Hour.** Food and drink - an Ashdown tradition. free. Room: Hulsizer Room (W1). Sponsor: Ashdown House.

**10:00 p.m. - 11:59 p.m. – Movie Night.** Movie and food - free for all!! free. Room: Big TV Room (W1). Sponsor: Ashdown House.

**10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. – Carnaval 2003.** !!! Brazilian Carnival Party !!! The "Carnaval" Party has already become a tradition at MIT and in Boston! In past years, we've had over 1,300 people coming to celebrate our version of the wildest open party in the world! A live band will shake the night with Brazilian dance music, and typical drinks will be served at the bar (ID required). Do NOT miss!!! \$15. Room: The Matrix (275 Tremont Street, Boston). Sponsor: Brazilian Student Association. Brazilian Associations @ BU, Harvard, Tufts, BC, Emerson, Babson, Northeastern.

**11:59 p.m. – Campus Disc Golf.** Do you like tossing a disc? Do you enjoy friendly competition? Or if you're just up for midnight antics, then come on out! Meet outside the Student Center on the front steps, and don't forget to bring a disc! Don't hesitate to come, newcomers are always welcomed - We meet every Thursday at midnight. Questions, contact Daniel Turek, [macgyver@mit.edu](mailto:macgyver@mit.edu). bring your own disc!. Room: Student Center steps. Sponsor: Campus Disc Golf.



# Candidates Propose New Ideas, Discuss Platforms

Elections, from Page 1

"Some members of the administration seem to doubt the importance of residence selection," Uzamere said. "I do not condone this sentiment. ... It would be a shame to see [rush] go."

Some campus leaders have said they worry that the changing rush system will lead to fewer pledges and more failing houses, a sentiment Uzamere agrees with. "We're worried that under the current plan, ... in the next few years, we'll see a number of houses die off," Uzamere said.

## A range of campus issues

Another highlight of all the platforms is UA reform with regard to efficiency.

"Since MIT students become hosed so quickly, ... no one [in the UA] follows up on projects," Deora said.

The candidates suggested a more open route of communication as the solution. Deora mentioned

that *UA Update* — the UA newsletter — and the UA's Web site are key in acquiring student feedback.

Gottlieb said he "want[s] people to use online discussion boards. We want to work with you and talk with you."

One important campus issue, the fate of the Coffeehouse, is contingent upon the response of the students, Deora and Gottlieb both said.

"We're always open to suggestions," Gottlieb said. "The atmosphere there is really cool. ... but it's a lot of work for one person to revamp."

"Some are looking to bring in a Starbucks, or some other company," Deora said. "We're collecting business plans, especially from alumni."

Both Gottlieb and Uzamere said they support daytime SafeRide service. Uzamere said that the idea has been part of "practically every UAP/VP ticket over the past several years."

"We've already proposed our plan to Dean Benedict," Uzamere said. "Our plan should cost under \$25,000 a year. ... We expect that the administration will react very favorably to our plan."

Gottlieb also intends to support a "dorm accessibility program" under which students can be given access to dorms they do not live in, but in which they have friends or business.

"Residents want their friends to come in," Gottlieb said. "We want to form a guest list recognized by desk workers. The current system ... creates unnecessary hassle and inadvertent security risks."

## Gottlieb responds to poster

Students may have seen flyers posted around campus that read "A vote for David Gottlieb is a vote against the dorms." The flyers were apparently posted in response to an e-mail written by Gottlieb on the *ifc-talk* mailing list. The e-mail suggested that the traditional dorm rush would be detrimental to fra-

ternity rush, and that Gottlieb's opponents favored the traditional rush.

"I said some stuff that wasn't correct," Gottlieb said in response. "It was stupid, but I just want to say that we want the freshman to have the best four years possible. ... It didn't come across the way I meant it to."

As a solution to the debate on dorm/ fraternity rush precedence during orientation, Gottlieb said that he would push for a "united front."

"We need to get rid of that impression of mistrust," Gottlieb said.

## Platforms

Deora and Williams' platform includes better dining for East Campus, increased UA-student interaction, and a campus coalition to foster student unity on their agenda. Deora and Williams, whom Deora describes as putting "the UA before academics," hope to facilitate the office space needs of stu-

dent groups, Deora said.

Gottlieb and Keller's leading issues are dorm room accessibility, UA efficiency, and community involvement in the UA. Moreover, the two propose an extension of TechCASH use to more restaurants in the Cambridge area. "Duke has [access to] 24 restaurants. Maybe we can get more than Domino's."

Gottlieb also said that MIT's Confidential Medical Transport program is important and describes Keller as "an energetic and dedicated person ... works really hard."

Uzamere and Faber's platform centers on "communication, concrete change, and community building." They also hope to build a "cultural group coalition" to ensure that cultural groups do not "splinter off into their own cliques." The two also say that they hope for better dining options around campus.

Elections will be held from March 6 to March 11.

## UA Presidential, Vice Presidential Candidates



GEORGE HEMMING  
Parul Deora '04, candidate for UA President



GEORGE HEMMING  
Harel M. Williams '05, candidate for UA Vice President



ROSHAN BALIGA—THE TECH  
David B. Gottlieb '04, candidate for UA President



ROSHAN BALIGA—THE TECH  
Karen M. Keller '04, candidate for UA Vice President



ROSHAN BALIGA—THE TECH  
Pius A. Uzamere '04, candidate for UA President



ROSHAN BALIGA—THE TECH  
Jacob W. Faber '04, candidate for UA Vice President

## Alpha Chi Sigma Professional Chemistry Fraternity



### Rush socials!

### Come meet us!

Tuesday, February 25  
Wednesday, February 26  
7:30 – 9:30 PM  
Room 4-149

Alpha Chi Sigma is primarily for sophomores, juniors, and seniors, but also rushes grad students and faculty involved in the chemical sciences in courses such as, but not limited to: 1E, 3, 5, 7, 10 and BME

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If you have any questions about AXΣ or membership in AXΣ, please e-mail [rushaxe@mit.edu](mailto:rushaxe@mit.edu).



**Wednesday, February 26**  
**Time 8 p.m.**



*Have questions for the candidates?*  
*E-mail them to*  
*letters@tt.mit.edu*



The Council for the Arts at MIT  
 presents

**FREE TICKETS FOR MIT  
 STUDENTS!!!!!!**

**Friday, March 7**  
**8:00pm**

**Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory**  
 Boston Modern Orchestra Project presents  
**What's New?**

An evening of world premieres  
 commissioned by BMOP

RUEHR *Ladder to the Moon*  
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 YANNATOS *Songs of Life, Love and Loss*  
 FRAZELLE *Concerto for Chamber Orchestra*

Pre-concert symposium, 7:00 pm  
 Featuring the evening's composers & artists  
 Open to all ticket holders

**Friday, March 14**  
**8:00pm**

**Somerville Theatre, Davis Square**  
 World Music/CrashArts presents:  
**HUUN HUUR TU**

Hailing from Tuva, an autonomous Russian republic on the border of Mongolia, Huun Huur Tu perform an otherworldly vocal technique described as "a musical marvel" by the New York Times. In this fascinating vocal style - called khöömei in Tuvan, or "overtone singing" in English - a single vocalist produces two or three notes simultaneously. Named Huun Huur Tu, or "Layers of Light" in their native Tuvan language, the four-member ensemble demonstrates the subtly diverse style of khöömei while singing rhythmic cowboy songs accompanied by traditional instruments from the Tuvan steppe.

Tickets may be picked up at the MIT  
 Office of the Arts E15-205  
 Monday - Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm

**One ticket per valid MIT Student ID**

MIT Computing Help Desk

## We're Hiring Student Consultants

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- interested in a starting rate of \$12.50/hr

Come meet our staff at the:

**Help Desk Info Session**  
**Tuesday, March 4th, 2003**  
**5:15 - 6:45 pm**  
**N42 Demo Center**

211 Mass Ave, across from NECCO



Attendance at the information session is required for all applicants. Candidates should also submit a resume by 5:00 pm on March 4th to:

*hd-hiring@mit.edu*

<http://web.mit.edu/helpdesk/hiring.html>

## 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Ebony Affair

**Saturday 3/1/03**

**6:30 pm - until**

**Morss Hall, Walker Memorial**

*Semi- Formal Attire, Live Entertainment,  
 Dinner*

*\$12 before 2/22      \$15 at the door*

*Tickets and info contact [samcgee@mit.edu](mailto:samcgee@mit.edu)*

*Tickets also available at the Source*

*(1<sup>st</sup> floor Student Center)*

*Presented by: MIT Black Graduate Students'  
 Association, Sloan Minority Business Club, and the Black  
 Students Union*

*Sponsored by ARCADE and [weekends@mit](mailto:weekends@mit)*



# Students Unconcerned With Seal Gender

Ring, from Page 1

audience response was tame when the original school seal was projected onto the two large screens in the front of the room.

According to the pamphlet distributed at the Ring Premiere, the seal shank "features the MIT School Seal, unadulterated and in its purest form possible." Two men symbolically hold a book and a hammer to match the Latin phrase *mens et manus* directly below them.

"I'm glad that [the 2005 Ring Committee] stuck with that tradition," said William R. Fowler '05. "Since the founding of the Institute, that's been our seal, and if there's one thing on the ring that shouldn't change, it's the seal of the Institute."

Allison Hall '05 said, "I really don't think it's that big of a deal. It's just a tradition."

"The reason we put the traditional seal [on the ring] was because we felt that most people wanted the traditional design," said Rohit Gupta '05, the Ring Committee chair.

The committee received input from the class of 2005 via e-mail, through a committee Web site, and at a committee-sponsored study break.

Controversy surrounding the school seal began three years ago, when the class of 2002's ring included a woman on the MIT seal for the first time. Though most of the class was happy with the design, some were upset at the deviation from tradition.

The class of 2003 Brass Rat featured two men, but the controversy was revisited last year when an information leak from the 2004 Ring Committee prompted 2004 Ring Committee chair Douglas J.

Quattrochi '04 and former class of 2004 President Patrick Y. Kim to hold a class-wide vote to decide whether to include a woman on the 2004 Brass Rat seal shank.

After a vote that leaned heavily toward a two-man seal, the Ring Committee reverted to a two-man seal.

## ArtCarved will make 2005 Rats

This year, the Ring Committee decided to order the rings from ArtCarved, a company that Ring Committees have ordered from in the past, Gupta said. Last year, the 2004 Ring Committee ordered from Jostens, but Gupta said that Jostens was poorly organized, and after considering issues like pricing, warranty, and artists, ArtCarved was their top choice.

Despite the cold weather and moderate rain, hundreds of sophomores huddled together in a line

outside the front doors of Walker before 5 p.m., some excited to see their class ring and others motivated to receive their free t-shirts and mugs.

Upon entering Walker Memorial, members of the class of 2005 were checked for identification, then greeted with free food on one side and two projection screens on the other while dance music blasted.

Presenting in semi-formal attire, the committee members took their turns in an informal presentation, with expletives embedded in occasional jokes.

At one point, Ring Committee member Rose Grabowsky '05 appeared to spontaneously start a dance contest during the raffle. Two contestants in the impromptu contest, Alex and Ethan Crumlin '05, took off their shirts in an attempt to win a prize.

# Council Ponders New Tax

By Frank Dabek  
STAFF REPORTER

A reduction in financial support from Beacon Hill has prompted the Cambridge City Council to discuss a payroll tax that would affect local universities.

City Councillor Brian Murphy initiated discussion at last night's council meeting on a proposal to create a 0.25 percent payroll tax that would generate \$13M yearly and "tax universities as employers." The proposal is in response to state cuts in aid to the city and the city's dependence on property taxes, Murphy said.

The city lost \$4.2M in state funds this year, according to a report of the council's finance committee.

The future of the proposal, which is not yet a formal bill, is unclear as support remains spotty among fellow councillors and it would have to be approved by the state legislature.

Councillor Anthony D. Galluccio said that he had "no problem aiming new taxes at universities" but did not "believe this is a time to be looking at a new local tax." Galluccio favors a renewed effort to remove the tax-exempt status of large universities instead. "Large institutes are run like corporations and corporations don't deserve tax-exempt status," he said. The tax exemption was "created for fledgling universities," not those with "enormous endowments."

A previous push to remove the tax-exempt status of large universities failed when Watertown struck a deal with Harvard University and withdrew its support, Galluccio said.

Galluccio, along with Councillor Henrietta Davis, proposed looking at restraining spending before creating a new tax. Galluccio also said that he had "concerns about the impact [of the payroll tax] on the business community."

## Tax requires home rule petition

The tax would also require a home rule petition or other action at the state level. Murphy said that while such a petition's chances on Beacon Hill were unclear, it had a better chance this year than in recent years because of fiscal concerns. The legislature realizes it should "be giving localities tools" to deal with the current fiscal problems, Murphy said.

Galluccio tied the ongoing negotiations over MIT's payments in lieu of taxes to the Institute's tax-exempt status. It is "better for the universities and city to have consistency" in tax payments, Galluccio said. The current payment in lieu of taxes system "doesn't bring the level of dignity both institutions would like."

Murphy said that he had not discussed the proposed tax with local universities.

MIT officials could not be reached for comment last night.



## MedLinks

Students Promoting Health at MIT

*It's 3 am. Your head is throbbing, your stomach is rumbling, your skin is itchy. It's thirty degrees outside, and MIT Medical might as well be on the other side of the world. Who can you call?*

Find your nearest link at  
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# Missing Young Woman: Women in Ciudad Juarez, on the Mexico/US Border

DESAPARECIDA

**Tues, Feb 25th  
6PM MIT  
Room 4-370**

A film screening  
of this Sundance  
Festival prize-  
winning new  
documentary and  
a conversation  
with the Director,  
Lourdes Portillo

Lourdes Portillo

Organized by the Mexican Students Association  
Funded by Large Events Funding and Women's Studies  
Co-sponsored by Social Justice Cooperative, MIT-Greens,  
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**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

## Solution to ChessMate

1. Rxh7+ Nxh7 2. g4x

## Solution to Crossword

S	E	M	I	S	C	H	E	F	D	U	M	B
A	D	U	L	T	H	A	L	L	A	G	A	R
W	I	L	L	Y	N	I	L	L	Y	B	I	L
S	E	L	F	A	D	O	I	O	N	I	A	N
				A	B	B	E	G	N	A	T	
H	I	A	T	U	S	C	O	G	Y	A	P	S
I	N	L	E	T	M	E	L	B	A	D	E	L
F	U	D	D	Y	D	U	D	D	Y	B	U	D
I	R	E	L	A	S	E	S	O	N	E	A	L
S	E	R	B	Y	E	S	C	U	D	D	L	Y
				E	S	T	S	R	A	T	E	
S	T	I	N	K	O	A	I	R	R	A	I	L
H	A	N	D	Y	D	A	N	D	Y	R	A	N
E	T	R	E	A	C	N	E	I	C	I	E	R
D	E	E	R	Y	E	A	R	A	T	S	E	A

from page 10



# IT'S NOT TOO SOON TO START THINKING ABOUT **NOMINATIONS** 2003 AWARDS CONVOCATION

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◆ **NOMINATIONS DEADLINE** ◆  
**MARCH 21**



\*Carnival \* Karnaval \* Cropover \*  
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Steel Drums!  
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Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>  
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# CARNAVAL

## 2003

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

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**<http://CARNAVAL2003.ORG>**



# Elevators Have New System, Slow Doors

By Nathan Collins  
NEWS EDITOR

The second of two student center elevator upgrades, which will modernize the 1960s technology currently in use, will be completed in the next week or two, said Campus Activities Complex Director Phillip J. Walsh.

"I think the elevators have been a concern here in the Student Center for some time," Walsh said.

The new elevator has experienced a few problems. Walsh said there were a few breakdowns last week "which were quickly responded to."

Additionally, some students have noticed that the new elevator doors open slowly and that this has contributed to slightly slower service, but Walsh said that this could likely be fixed.

"There's always some tweaking to be done," Walsh said. He noted that having the crew that worked on the first elevator still around working on the second could expedite such work.

Bernard J. Richard, Department of Facilities manager for electrical, mechanical and plumbing operations, said that minor problems, such as those with the doors, should be relatively easy to fix. "Whether or not we can speed up the elevators, I'm not sure," he said in regard to the elevator motors.

The west elevator renovation was completed several weeks ago. Walsh said that the second effort would likely take about three weeks, instead of the anticipated four weeks, putting the completion date in early March.

Walsh said the two elevators

were not renovated at the same time so workers could learn from work on the first elevator. The second renovation, he said, would take less time because workers were already experienced with an identical system.

Richard said the work required three weeks because "we're doing an extensive overhaul." A typical MIT elevator takes six weeks to renovate, he said. "We have to replace a tremendous amount of components."

A major reason for the renovations was the outdated electronics. The elevator cars were renovated in the 1980s, but the electronics remained the same as when they were first installed in 1965, he said.

Those electronics used many mechanical relays which had a propensity to get stuck, Richard said.

"When you have a problem, you have hundreds and hundreds of relays," and tracking down and fixing the stuck relay can be difficult, Richard said.

A key job was to replace the electronics with modern solid-state systems. "It becomes much more dependable," Richard said.

The elevator cars, controls, and much of the other hardware will be replaced, and the elevators motors will be overhauled, Richard said.

In addition to the elevators, many fifth floor offices were recently renovated. Starting last December, the offices of Student Life Programs and Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups were extensively remodeled to change the arrangement and sizes of individual offices.

## Eloranta Summer Research Fellowships

Several **\$6,000** summer research fellowships, intended to encourage challenging intellectual activity during the summer months, are available to MIT undergraduates. Areas of study or research may be in any field: science, engineering, the humanities, arts, or the social sciences. Originality is important. The planned activity must be student organized or student-directed.

All MIT undergraduates are eligible, including those whose planned research begins the summer immediately following graduation.

**How to Apply:** A well-written proposal presenting a concise research plan should be submitted by the deadline to the UROP Office, 7-104. At least one letter of recommendation or support for the proposed research is needed, from an MIT faculty member. This letter may accompany the proposal or be mailed separately. A budget should be included with the proposal. Award Winners are chosen by the Eloranta Fellowship Committee at the end of April.

**Contact:** Staff in the UROP Office, 7-104, x3-7306, <[urop@mit.edu](mailto:urop@mit.edu)>. For additional details, please see the Eloranta website, <[web.mit.edu/eloranta/](http://web.mit.edu/eloranta/)>.

**Deadline: April 4, 2003.**

Have a nice day!

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Thursday, February 27, 2003  
Building 34, Room 401A-B

5:30-7:00 Open House

CD-SEM Semiconductor Wafer Metrology  
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Nuclear Magnetic Resonance

7:00-8:00 Lecture

Digital Management of  
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John Ullo, Managing Director  
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Refreshments will be served.

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*The Flona Karmel Writing Prizes*

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Competition Deadline:  
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# MIT Students Congenial, Rush Protest Leaves an Impression

Notebook, from Page 1

lish one. French House was a whirlwind of activity and laughter, of many different ages, interests, and personalities, all centered around the kitchen, not a textbook. There is definitely more than one type of person at MIT, contrary to a myth circulating in my hometown.

Speaking of the people, everyone was congenial, pleasant, and helpful. Someone was kind enough to point in the right direction when I managed to get lost in Building 3. The popular myth that everyone at MIT is a robot seemed false (or the robots' programmer did a spectacular job, one of the two).

MIT had other pleasant surprises. There is life here outside of books, lectures, labs, and problem sets. Although the students I met did spend an enormous amount of time

with their books and problem sets, it wasn't the only thing on their minds. The number of clubs, performances, and other activities was startling for a population that supposedly lives in the library.

During my visit, we passed by a protest about dormitory rush. Many sophomores, juniors, and seniors seem upset, while the freshmen students seem not to know what they're missing and therefore don't know which position to take on the issue. I had thought that rush was an integral part of campus life at any campus, and I don't see why it should be discontinued. The most interesting parts of the whole thing to me were the discussions among the students and their peaceful and orderly protests.

As a prefrish, I was treated to all the MIT landmarks including the Infinite Corridor, the Great Dome, Hay-

den Library, a computer cluster, and of course bona fide MIT lectures. The only thing which prevented me from feeling like a complete tourist was the paucity of "flash photography forbidden" signs. The studio classroom in Building 26 (the Technology Enabled Active Learning room) was impressive. I wanted a little buzzer of my own before the class was over. The four classes which I attended were taught by professors who were both lively and interested in the material they were teaching.

A visit to MIT was certainly informative and memorable. MIT is formidable, but it's not impersonal or unpleasant. It's a living institution comprising hardworking individuals. And I managed to survive an entire day without getting stuffed into a locker, a step up from high school.

Now, if I can only survive the application.

# Few Visa Delays Thus Far, Departments Say

Delays, from Page 1

or weeks may be triggered by anything that a border agent deems to be unusual, 'suspicious' or otherwise warranting further scrutiny," according to a report describing MIT's guidelines. If the student is from one of the twenty nations subject to a "special registration" process, or if an application is sent to the U.S. State Department for administrative review, it can take months for the visa to be approved.

A student put under administrative review will often have to submit further information to the government, for example a transcript of classes taken at MIT.

Danielle Guichard-Ashbrook, director of the International Students Office, said that the reasons an application will be reviewed may be a combination of excessive travel and belonging to certain organizations.

Guichard-Ashbrook said she would "presume what [classes] you're taking is a factor." Nuclear engineering and cryptography have been cited as classes that might arouse suspicion.

She said that students in the nuclear engineering department run a higher risk of administrative review, but the State Department has also investigated "students from

seemingly innocuous fields."

Faculty have final decision on help

Instead of a response to a specific event or large problem, Colbert said, the guidelines are meant as "a heads-up for departments" before a problem emerges. In the areas of registration, research positions, and health care, the report leaves the faculty significant room for deciding how to handle a student's case.

Biology Department Head Robert T. Sauer said that students' being unable to return promptly had not become a large issue for the Biology Department and that the issue had not yet required a systematic process.

Brian E. Canavan, academic administrator for the Physics Department, said that there had been "very few incidents" of delayed students in physics, and all of them were short-term hold ups. The department would deal with the issue on "a case by case basis," he said, and "we are very open to working with students."

"To my knowledge, I don't think we've had a problem," said Chemistry Department Head Stephen J. Lippard.

The guidelines report also states that missed housing bills can be spread out over future bills, but housing will not be guaranteed for longer delays or for off-campus leases.

Got a story? Call x3-1541 and tell us!

## Last Minute Spring Break Deals to Cancún

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March 21 - 28, 2003. Choose from one of these great hotels:

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FAA approved charter air transportation via Transmeridian or similar carrier. Prices are per person based on triple or quad occupancy for new bookings only. Information is subject to change; prices are capacity-controlled and subject to availability. Prepaid government taxes, fees, September 11 Security Fee, and P.F.C. of up to \$96.50 per person and \$20 booking fee for reservations made inside 14 days are not included in listed prices and are subject to change without notice. TNT Vacations specials cannot be combined with any discount vouchers or promotions. Each price may not be valid/available for every departure date. Listed prices include fuel-related and all other increases in effect as of 1/29/03, but may increase additionally due to unanticipated expenses beyond TNT Vacations control. See Tour Participant Agreement in 2002-2003 Sunshine Guide for further information. 1322

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1st Choice: Nader  
2nd Choice: Gore  
3rd Choice: Bush

**Winner: Gore**

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**Voting Reform Forum  
Thursday, Feb. 27 7:00 PM Room 6-120**



Peter Vickery  
IRV Activist



Ron Bell  
Dunk the Vote



Alice Wolf  
Camb. State Rep

**Rank your candidates!**

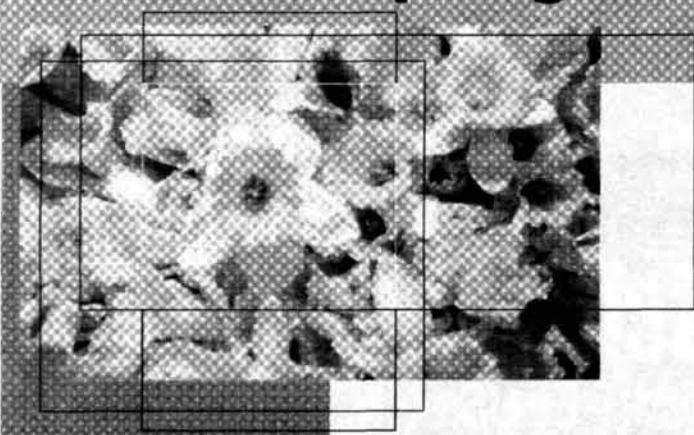
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## FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REQUESTS INTERNS

The Postal Inspection Service, one of the nations oldest federal law enforcement agencies, would like two interns to assist with its money laundering and mail fraud investigations. Learn about a variety of different types of criminal investigations, corporate security and job opportunities in federal law enforcement. Our presentation will be held on February 27th at 7:30pm in 2-105. Refreshments will be served!



## APPLY RIGHT NOW FOR POSITIONS IN FRESHMAN ORIENTATION 2003!

\*Applications for **Pre-Orientation (FPOP)** Coordinators and Counselors are now available in the ARC (7-103). For more information on the FPOPs, contact Dan Chapman, [dwc@mit.edu](mailto:dwc@mit.edu). Deadlines for FPOP applications is Friday, **February 28, 2003.**

\***City Days** Coordinator position is now available. For more information, contact Jill Soucy of the Public Service Center, [jsoucy@MIT.EDU](mailto:jsoucy@MIT.EDU) or (617) 253-8968.

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## SPORTS

## Pistol Defeats USMMA, Loses To Coast Guard Academy Twice

By Jenny Y. Liao  
TEAM MEMBER

MIT Pistol recently competed in two important matches, tallying a decisive win and a narrow loss the crucial weeks leading up to the National Rifle Association sectionals, in which the team lost by a 10-point margin.

In late January, the varsity squad hosted a small team from Unites States Merchant Marine's Academy (USMMA). Though many of the team members were newly back from IAP vacations, graduate school interviews, and other activities, MIT's performance was characteristically strong, with an aggregate score of 6,234 — just six points lower than the season's best score against Army. USMMA, with a much smaller and generally less-experienced team, lost all five events (two by default, for lack of a women's squad).

In Sport Pistol on Friday, Yin M. Chen, Audrey S. Wang, and Jenny Y. Liao, all seniors, posted very strong scores despite winning the

event by default. Their aggregate score of 1,636 is an impressive season's best.

Saturday saw additional victories in the remaining four events. MIT's scoring team Chen, David S. Schan-non '04, Wang, Tony W. Scelfo '04, L. Michael Horvath '05, shot an aggregate score of 2,183, besting USMMA's 1,915. The same scoring team shot 1,981 in Free Pistol vs. USMMA's 1,685, and won Standard Pistol by a 152-point margin.

## Coast Guard edges MIT

One weekend later, missing a top shooter, MIT had a challenging away match against a much-improved United States Coast Guard Academy squad. Coast Guard's grand aggregate score of 6,289 was higher than MIT's season high, and provided Coast Guard a 200-point margin of victory. Coast Guard Blue's scoring members each handily beat the corresponding members of MIT's team, with large margins of victory in both Air and Standard Pistol.

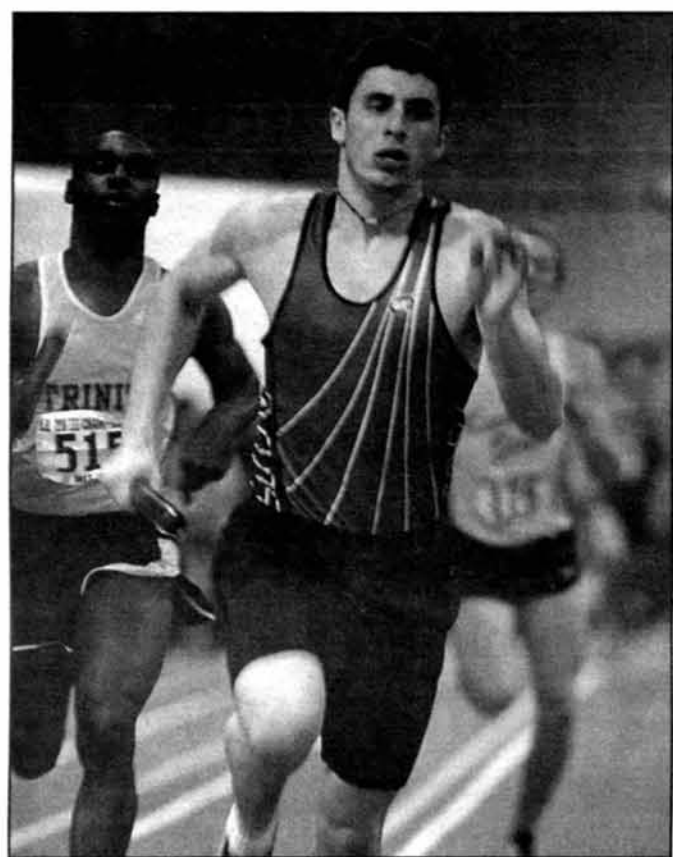
Coast Guard continued its winning streak last weekend at MIT in a

combined match and the NRA Sectionals (qualifiers for the Collegiate National Championships). Though MIT won in the majority of five events, the varsity squad fell with an aggregate score of 6,253-6,263. Victories were tallied in Free Pistol, Women's Air, and Women's Sport; losses were in open Air and Standard events.

## Team looks ahead to Nationals

Despite the narrow loss, MIT's team is very strong and is expected to qualify in all five events for the national championships in March. Additionally, several shooters have very high standings nationally and are expected to qualify individually.

The team in recent weeks has been on a more intense schedule with additional Saturday practices in preparation for the NRA Nationals. MIT has traditionally performed very well, most recently by securing first-place in Women's Air Pistol in last year's competition. Using sectional performance as a meter, MIT is well-poised to place in the top three for Standard, Women's Air, and Women's Sport Pistol.



STANLEY HU—THE TECH

Zachary J. Traina '05 leads off the 4x400-meter relay during the New England Division III Championships at MIT. MIT won the meet with 120 points, defeating rivals Williams College (88 points) and Tufts University (87 points).

## Gymnasts Vying for Nationals Slot After Upsetting SUNY Brockport

By Caitlin P. Dwyer-McNally  
and Lindsey L. Wolf  
TEAM MEMBERS

The Women's 2002-03 Gymnastics team has exhibited marked improvement over last year's performance, partly due to a talented crop of freshmen. Newcomers Francesca E. Demeo, Chandler E. Hatton, and Jennifer E. Sauchuk bring a wealth of experience gained from their previous successes at the Junior Olympic level.

The squad got off to a strong start during IAP, opening the season with a team score of 173.45, compared to last year's first meet score of 169.125. The team has shown even greater improvement over the course of the season. They have already shattered the team overall school record three times, most recently at SUNY

Brockport on Feb. 15 (180.775). High scores on vault (9.35) and floor (9.65) came from Cindy Chung '04, who earned first place on both events. Merritt S. Tam '05 won beam (9.5) and the all-around (36.775).

But most impressive was the improvement displayed by the entire team on vault and beam, events that had been preventing the team from doing as well during previous competitions.

## MIT vying for bid to Nationals

The SUNY Brockport meet was a strategic win for the Engineers as the race for the one remaining spot at the National Championships heats up. Only the top four teams from each conference automatically qualify for the National Championships in Eau Claire, Wisconsin on March 28-29. MIT is in good shape after upsetting SUNY (ranked fourth in

Division III.) The Engineers are currently ranked fifth in the nation and have held the first place ranking on the floor exercise for the last three weeks.

There will certainly be a battle between four teams at this year's Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Regional Championships. MIT, Brockport, Springfield and Rhode Island College all have deep, talented squads this year. One of these four teams will beat the others out for the fourth qualifying spot to the National Championships.

MIT's next regular season meet will be their last. In a combined meet with the men on March 1, MIT will host a number of teams including Springfield, a team they have never beaten. This meet will provide MIT with one more chance to increase their Season Average Score, which counts for 40 percent towards qualifying to the National Championships. Their performance at the Regional Championships will account for the other 60 percent.

## Ballroom Dance Takes 20 First-Place Finishes

By Miriam Sorell  
TEAM MEMBER

While New England suffered from freezing temperatures and blizzard conditions this past Presidents'

Day weekend, members of the MIT Ballroom Dance Team were turning up the heat at the Holy Cross Fifth Annual Ballroom Dance Competition. The team walked away from the competition with 20 first place finishes.

The Holy Cross competition was structured differently from most. Each dance was judged separately. Typically a couple's results are based on the compilation of their scores for all the dances in a level, such as Silver International Latin or Open American Smooth. Here, a couple could come in first in Silver International Cha-Cha even if they didn't make it to the final in Silver International Jive, both of which are Silver International Latin dances.

Because of this structure, MITBDT did well in far too many categories to report them all, but here are some of the highlights:

In International Standard, Eric D. Nielsen G and Michelle Goldhaber placed first in Gold Tango. In Bronze, Mark Sin G and Christina Laskowski '05 placed first in both Foxtrot and Quickstep. In the Open level, which was judged by category, Bill Liteplo SM '00 and Ika Setyawati took first place overall.

Nielsen and Johnna D. Powell G took first place in each category of Silver International Latin, as well as in Gold Cha-Cha and Jive. Liteplo and Goldhaber took the rest of the Gold medals for Gold Latin, in Samba, Rumba, and Paso Doble. In American Smooth, Nielsen and Goldhaber placed first in all the Gold level dances: Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot, and Viennese Waltz. Bill Coate and Irina Nikoforova placed first in Silver Waltz. Coate and Nikoforova took another first place in Silver American Cha-Cha, while Liteplo and Goldhaber took place over all in the Open American competition.

For complete results for Holy Cross and other recent competitions, visit the Ballroom Dance Team's Web site, <http://mitbdt.mit.edu>.

MIT Department of FACILITIES  
CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

## Building 12 Fire Protection Main

Beginning Monday, February 24, excavation will start near Buildings 12, 4, and 8 to repair a ruptured fire protection main. Traffic should not be affected, but pedestrian access to this area will be limited. The work will take approximately three weeks. Some jackhammering may occur.

## Simmons Hall

The kitchen and dining rooms are in full dinner operation. The atrium window work is complete. Work on the parking lot is underway.

## Vassar St. Utilities

Installation of new drainage piping running from Mass. Ave. to the Johnson Athletic Center is in the final stages of completion. Pedestrians now walk behind Building 48 on a newly constructed temporary walkway for several months to allow Vassar St. work to continue.

## Stata Center

A shroud over the Building 56 air intake will be constructed to reduce exhaust fumes introduced into the intake from the Stata site.

## Dreyfus Chemistry Building

Repair work on the east concrete façade is nearing completion. Installation of mechanical systems continues. Demobilization of the construction staging area is being planned and removal of most of the trailers will take place later this spring.

## Vassar Streetscape

Work is underway on the north side of the street. Traffic will continue to flow one-way westbound along the southern side of the street. All major crosswalks and driveways are accessible; crosswalks will occasionally shift as work progresses.

## Building 7 ADA accessible entrance

Outdoor work is approximately 40 percent complete. Concrete for the ramp and steps will be installed soon.

For information on MIT's building program, see <http://web.mit.edu/evolving>. This information provided by the MIT Department of Facilities.



DANIEL BERSAK—THE TECH

Co-captain Alicia Volpicelli '98 fights for the puck during Friday night's Women's Club Hockey's 3-0 loss against Boston University.